

Heseltine hopes for help from Howe

## King plays the Gulf card to boost Thatcher

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TOM King, the defence secretary, played the Gulf card yesterday in the strongest attempt yet by a senior minister to deter Michael Heseltine from challenging Margaret Thatcher for the Conservative leadership.

He gave a warning that a divisive contest would undermine the morale of British troops serving in the Gulf.

Manoeuvrings continued in advance of Thursday's noon deadline for the declaration of candidates to face Mrs Thatcher. While more MPs are urging Mr Heseltine to stand, he was receiving conflicting advice from his supporters about the wisdom of challenging the prime minister.

Workers in his cause reported that more than 100 votes were pledged for him, which would be enough for respectability but not enough to push Mrs Thatcher into a second-round contest. It left Mr Heseltine with the dilemma that he could damage his prospects for the future by a challenge now. But others felt that he had allowed the speculation to mount so far that a failure to take on the

prime minister would raise serious questions about his political courage.

It was clear that a number in the Heseltine camp were hoping to push Sir Geoffrey Howe into making the first move against Mrs Thatcher.

Cabinet ministers, meanwhile, gave a warning of damage to the Tory cause from divisive talk about the prospect of a leadership battle. Norman Lamont, chief secretary to the Treasury, criticised "self-indulgent" talk within the party and said that backbenchers had to be more restrained. "We are in grave danger of inflicting heavy wounds on ourselves. We have got to unite ourselves."

But the Heseltine camp was rejoicing yesterday at the cellular telephone indiscretion of Richard Needham, the junior Northern Ireland minister, as evidence that there is support for his challenge. Mr Needham has apologised to Mrs Thatcher after publication of a telephone conversation in which he said: "I wish that cow would resign."

As Mr Heseltine was poised last night to receive backing from supporters in his Henley constituency to make a challenge, Mr King said on LWT's *Walden* programme that, in the interests of war and peace, it would be wrong for the former defence secretary to trigger a contest.

Mr King, once a junior minister under Mr Heseltine at the environment department, said the strategy of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq was to divide the West. "If at this moment we actually reject... if we had a contest, what am I to say to the troops I am going to see in the next few days about the fact that the whole country is behind you?"

Questioned about the prospect of Mr Heseltine standing for the leadership, Mr King added: "I think it is quite wrong at this time."

Mr Heseltine remained at his home in Oxfordshire throughout the day, refusing to talk to the media, as his close associates urged Sir Geoffrey either to stand or endorse Mr Heseltine.

Ideally, Mr Heseltine's allies would like Sir Geoffrey to stand in the first round, allowing the former defence secretary to enter the contest in the second round. They are increasingly resigned to the fact that this will not occur.

but some supporters hope that the former deputy prime minister can be persuaded to give behind-the-scenes support to Mr Heseltine. There was even the suggestion yesterday from some MPs that, if Sir Geoffrey backed Mr Heseltine, he could be rewarded with his old job as foreign secretary if the Henley MP won.

Peter Temple-Morris, a member of the Commons select committee on foreign affairs, said that, on Europe, Sir Geoffrey and Mr Heseltine were of one mind ideologically. Urging Sir Geoffrey to back Mr Heseltine, he said: "I would hope that he himself, after his many years of very distinguished service, might see it in him to support the Heseltine effort, or in some way come together."

He said on BBC Radio 4's *The World this Weekend* "I would have thought that Michael Heseltine, backed by the wisdom and experience of Geoffrey Howe, would be a pretty combination."

Sir Geoffrey and Mr Heseltine have had one telephone conversation since the deputy prime minister's resignation. Sir Geoffrey's friends insist that he is not involved in any pact or collusion with Mr Heseltine. Although according to one source he has been approached to stand against Mrs Thatcher, his allies remain convinced that he will not challenge her for the leadership. They also ridiculed the suggestion that he would stand as a "walking horse" for Mr Heseltine.

Mr Heseltine, who was being prepared as a battlefield, said last night that King was being prepared as a battlefield. In an interview with Trevor McDonald of ITN he said: "The whole province of Kuwait, as well as the approaches of Kuwait, are now being prepared as a battlefield in anticipation of any offensive."

It did not, however, appear that an attack was imminent, because Mr Baker conceded that he had found differences over how long it would take for sanctions to work, and whether they were already doing so. Washington is likely to wait until a further 200,000 troops have been moved to Saudi Arabia.

Qian Qichen, foreign minister of China, arrived in Baghdad yesterday for talks with the Iraqi leader in the first visit by a minister from a permanent member of the



Cenotaph protest: the scene in Whitehall yesterday as a young man set himself on fire while members of the royal family and government observed the traditional Remembrance Day two-minute silence (William Cash writes). The official party, which included the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and the prime minister, appeared unaware of the

incident. Witnesses said that the man doused himself with petrol, jumped over a police barrier and used a cigarette lighter to ignite himself as he ran towards the Cenotaph. Police officers tackled the man near the entrance to Horse Guards parade and three officers were injured after smothering the flames with their jackets. A spokesman said he

cried out "Think of people now" as he lay on the ground. St John's Ambulance took the man to St Thomas's hospital. He was transferred to the burns unit at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, south London, where he is being treated for serious burns to the face, hands and back.

Remembrance Day, page 24

## Kuwait prepared as battlefield, a milder Saddam tells West

By ANDREW MCEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

AS JAMES Baker, the American Secretary of State, arrived in Washington after his tour of the Middle East, President Saddam Hussein said last night that Kuwait was being prepared as a battlefield.

In an interview with Trevor McDonald of ITN he said: "The whole province of Kuwait, as well as the approaches of Kuwait, are now being prepared as a battlefield in anticipation of any offensive."

It did not, however, appear that an attack was imminent, because Mr Baker conceded that he had found differences over how long it would take for sanctions to work, and whether they were already doing so. Washington is likely to wait until a further 200,000 troops have been moved to Saudi Arabia.

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Secret tribute page 24

United Nations Security Council since the invasion on August 2.

King Hassan of Morocco called yesterday for an exceptional "last chance" Arab summit to prevent war. In another development, reports from Amman quoted Jordanian officials as saying they believed President Saddam was prepared to withdraw from Kuwait if a face-saving formula could be found.

The Iraqi leader gave no hint in his ITN interview of any willingness to withdraw, but expressed criticism of Britain and America in mild

language. He did not repeat personal attacks on Margaret Thatcher made by Baghdad last week.

He said it was because of military preparations that journalists were not allowed to visit Kuwait to check reports of Kuwaitis being executed or tortured.

He said he had not heard of such acts, but claimed that some Iraqis had been sentenced to death for looting property.

Britain of pushing the United Nations Security Council into "hasty" action, resolutions against Iraq, but said it was not correct to suppose the world as being united against Iraq.

The Iraqi leader also claimed that the ruling family in Kuwait had conspired against Iraq and ignored its warnings, before the invasion. He repeated earlier claims that a weak security council resolution against Iraq after the killing of Palestinians showed that double standards were applied.

In London, the Home Office confirmed that two Iraqi businessmen had been ordered to leave Britain by tomorrow. They were being expelled because of their involvement in procurement on behalf of the Iraqi government.

He accused the US and

## Six held after arms found in dawn raid on flats

By STEWART TENDLER AND PETER VICTOR

HALF a dozen people were being questioned by Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad last night after arms and ammunition were found in a pre-dawn raid on two suspected safe houses in north London yesterday.

The raid could mark a big breakthrough in the battle against the IRA's mainland campaign.

The raid, at a run-down block of flats called Sidmouth Court, in Kilburn, was completed only hours before security forces raided four men suspected by the IRA on Saturday while withdrawing at Castor Bay near Lurgan in Northern Ireland.

Anti-terrorist squad officers arrested six people, now being detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Around 70 pounds of explosive, thought to be semtex, were discovered inside two cars, a Lada and a Vauxhall Cavalier, parked in Hanover Road, near two flats at the block where the arrests were made. Weapons, ammunition and documents were also recovered from the cars. Police had been searching for the Lada for several weeks and traced it to north London where it was kept under observation up until yesterday's raid.

The flats are thought to have been safe houses from which members of the IRA operated. Anti-terrorist and other officers are now searching the premises, seeking possible links with recent terrorist atrocities.

Those arrested were last night being questioned at Paddington Green police station, which has high security custody facilities. The explosives, weapons and documents recovered will be subjected to forensic examination. Scotland Yard said that the raid followed intensive inquiries by the anti-terrorist squad. Few weapons associated with alleged IRA attacks have been recovered by the police. Papers recovered from the vehicles could also provide police with valuable information about IRA activities.

More than 2,000 people were evacuated from their homes in nearby Donnington Road and Chamberlaine Road during the operation, Scotland Yard said. Residents said they were given five minutes to leave their homes. Some families left their homes wearing only their nightclothes without money or

Continued on page 24, col 1

### INSIDE

## Barclays fears long recession

BARCLAYS, Britain's largest bank, says that Britain faces a deep and prolonged recession unless there are further cuts in interest rates, yet entry into the European exchange-rate mechanism has limited the government's ability to make base rate cuts.

The warning came as the Confederation of British Industry released figures showing sales in the distribution sector at the lowest in seven years, with motor car sales and wholesalers the worst hit. Pages 25, 26

## Rocking on



George Harrison breaks cover to talk about why he has gone back to basics with a group of rock old-timers. Page 21

## Piper report

The Cullen report into the 1988 Piper Alpha tragedy is expected to propose an independent body to oversee North Sea safety, on which the industry says it is spending £750 million as a result of the accident. Page 4

## Green relief

Two leading conservation groups have proposed a system of environmental management payments to replace the European Community system of paying subsidies for agriculture. Page 7

## Moscow rations

Moscow city council is to be asked to approve food rationing within two weeks by a mayor critical of the slow pace of President Gorbachev's economic reform. Page 24

## Defeat looms

England's cricket team, forced to follow on in the game against South Australia, are facing the prospect of an innings defeat. Page 36

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## Clarke rejects idea of school vouchers

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH Clarke, the education secretary, yesterday stamped his authority on the Conservative debate over schools policy with a blunt rejection of education vouchers.

Interviewed on *Midlands at Westminster*, the BBC regional television programme, he said: "I have never been in favour of vouchers. I don't think they play any part in the government's plans."

Given that parents now had the ability to choose which schools their children should go to, and also taking into account the arrangements made for local management of schools and all the steps being

taken by the Conservatives to raise standards of education, vouchers were not needed, he said.

Mr Clarke added that he did not think vouchers were on the agenda, contradicting John MacGregor, his predecessor, who last month said that vouchers were still a live issue in relation to the Conservative manifesto for the next election.

Mr Clarke's remarks follow a series of confrontations in the Commons and elsewhere since the prime minister raised the subject of vouchers at the Tory party conference.

Education, pages 16, 17

## More soldiers for Gulf

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

TOM King, the defence secretary, confirmed yesterday that the government was considering sending more combat troops to Saudi Arabia to boost Britain's military presence in the Gulf, already totalling 16,000 men and women.

Mr King who left for the Gulf last night to visit the Desert Rats, the 7th Armoured Brigade, ruled out more aircraft. He said there were enough fighter planes already in theatre. The RAF has four squadrons of Tornados and Jaguars there.

Asked during London Weekend Television's *Walden* interview whether the government was thinking of sending another force out, similar in size to the Desert Rats, Mr

King would not be drawn on numbers. But he said: "We're looking to see what we might helpfully do."

The likelihood of another armoured brigade, with Challenger tanks, being sent to Saudi Arabia, arises after President Bush's decision to order up to 200,000 more troops, as well as three extra aircraft carriers and a battleship to the Gulf. James Baker, the US Secretary of State, spoke about reinforcements to Margaret Thatcher when they met at Downing Street last Friday. But Whitehall sources insisted he did not make a specific request for more British troops.

Although the options presented include an airborne brigade, it is considered more

likely that armour will be sent if a decision is made to boost Britain's military presence. Since the arrival of the Desert Rats, fifteen Puma helicopters have been sent for casualty evacuation and the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Argos has set sail as an additional hospital facility.

Part of the reason for the extra American troops, being sent, Mr King said, was to minimise casualties. He made it clear that unless President Saddam Hussein removed his troops from Kuwait, he would face "the certainty of force". He then warned the Iraqi leader that if he used chemical weapons against allied forces it would have "very, very grave consequences indeed for Iraq".

## Welsh speakers seeking productivity deal

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT



Gwynfor Evans: "Schools lead Welsh resurgence"

WELSH speakers are being urged to breed for Wales to keep their language alive. Members of Cymdeithas Cymrod Y Cymry Rhydd (Covenanters of the Free Welsh) issued their mating call at a weekend conference as a response to shortages of native linguists in teaching and other fields.

The 70 delegates drew back from a proposal to offer financial incentives for families producing five Welsh-speaking children. They gave strong support, however, to Jina Keller, a mother of four, in calling on Welsh-speaking couples to produce as many children as they can reasonably support.

Meinir Francis, who comes from a family of seven and is expecting a seventh child of her own, said: "In my case it is not deliberate, but having

children is the greatest contribution to make to any nation. Large families are a sign of renewed life and that the Welsh nation will continue."

The battle for survival has been fought in the schools, rather than the bedroom, in recent years. The hopes of Welsh nationalists have been pinned on the requirement for 1992 for Welsh to be compulsory under the national curriculum.

Gwynfor Evans, the veteran Welsh activist, said that a third of all children in the Porthkerry area were now educated in Welsh. "The resurgence of the language in the valleys is entirely due to the schools and that is why I'm optimistic about its future."

A minority of schools, about 18 per cent, opposes the introduction of the language and is seeking permission to opt out of compulsory lessons. Blodwen

Griffiths, of Education First, is angry that children attending a local village school at Capel Iwan, where 80 per cent of the 40 children are English, are being taught in Welsh.

"English is the language of Britain. I was brought up in Welsh, and I feel that I've suffered because of it," she said. Sometimes, I make mistakes when speaking English. Many children do not have the capacity to become fully bilingual and can get confused when coping with two languages."

The main parties are engaged in a war of statistics over teacher shortages in Welsh schools but have not considered a population boom as the solution. Even some of the Covenanters remain unconvinced. Chris Schoon, who opposed the clause, said: "What does it matter how many children we have if they have to go across the border for work?"

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## TORY LEADERSHIP

## Eminently visible advocate of a kinder, gentler Thatcherism

By ROBIN OAKLEY  
POLITICAL EDITOR

MICHAEL Heseltine has devoted much of his recent political career to campaigning for the kind of Britain he would like to see. An average of six speeches a week since he left the Cabinet over Westland in 1986 have made him the best known senior figure among the party's activists. He has had far more exposure to the rank and file than ministers and is known personally to many Tory MPs in whose constituencies he has spoken.

But any contest, as Sir Geoffrey Howe has made clear, will be about substance as well as style. Mr Heseltine's manifesto will have Europe at its heart. It is

the prominence of European issues in the current Tory troubles which has given him his chance. It was his championing of a European co-operative answer to Westland's problems which led to his departure from the Cabinet; and Mr Heseltine has long argued that what Britain has to avoid is becoming the leader of the second division in a Europe sub-division.

He favours the single currency and closer monetary co-operation to enable Britain to play a role in the shaping of the new Europe, deriding those who prefer to shout abuse from the touchline. But he has convinced right wingers that he is no federalist.

Although it is some years since he has been an active businessman, Mr

Heseltine is proud of the property and magazine businesses which made him a millionaire many times over. Others may talk about capitalism, I've practised it, is the pitch. But he still, however, advocates a closer, more hands-on relationship between government and industry.

He talks of a One Nation partnership between the privileged leaders of society and the aspirations of the industrial working class. A key passage in a speech earlier this year sets out the essence of his counter-appeal to Thatcherism: "It is this recognition of obligation and responsibility that marks out the Tory from those who limit their understanding of human societies to the more naked workings of the unfettered mar-

ket. The Tory recognises the contrast between laissez faire and noblesse oblige."

It is Thatcher plus Bush, a kinder, gentler Thatcherism. To the irritation of Downing Street, he talks openly of the creation of an underclass and of "areas of shame" in Britain, articulating the unease of many middle-class Tory supporters. But he is brisk enough in his response to the problems of unemployment to back the American idea of workfare, denying benefits to those shown not to be actively seeking work.

The Heseltine approach is as much a matter of management as of policy. As environment secretary he introduced the MINIS system, setting targets and identifying responsibilities for civil

servants. He founded the Audit Commission to monitor the performance of local government. His prescription for the problem of controlling council finances includes the installation of directly-elected mayors with the powers of chief executives, properly paid councillors and councils bidding against each other for government money on the basis of proven capacity to deliver services efficiently and cheaply.

The Tory Left appreciates his "caring Conservatism" appeal and the practical work he has put in to counter urban deprivation. He still makes regular visits to Liverpool, where he was responsible for inner-city initiatives linked with private industry after being appalled by the state of the city when he

became "Mr Merseyside" following the Toxteth riots in 1981. But the Right also appreciates that he talks the language of the party's business backers, sees him as sound on inflation and suspects that he may be right in supporting the idea of an independent Bank of England. The Right appreciated, too, his guns-bo record as defence secretary and his effective counter-propaganda operation against CND.

What Tories in all sectors of the party have not forgotten either is that Mr Heseltine examined the idea of the poll tax when he was in the environment department, warned the cabinet against it and has opposed it ever since. Anyone offering a way out of that particular nightmare will be listened to seriously.

## Conflicting advice for Heseltine as deadline nears

By ROBIN OAKLEY  
POLITICAL EDITOR

MICHAEL Heseltine has until noon on Thursday to make the most fateful decision of his political career. Thatcher loyalists pushing him to "put up or shut up", a degree of press hysteria and his reluctance to restrain his supporters from exploiting the government's latest troubles in the wake of the Bradford and Boodle by-elections, have taken things to the point where he could now be seriously damaged by failing to challenge Mrs Thatcher for the leadership.

There is a limit to the number of times he can hover on the brink, and he may never again be offered the same combination of circumstances: Europe as the top issue, the prime minister weakened by the resignation of Sir Geoffrey Howe and the by-election results, and an over-reaction by the Conservative machine to his open letter to his constituency association.

Mr Heseltine is, however, receiving conflicting advice from his closest supporters. Those urging him to launch a challenge are saying that he will appear cowardly if he does not. There is no point, they say, in waiting for a stalking horse to emerge.

A stalking horse candidate is most unlikely to win enough votes to precipitate a second round of the leadership contest, which would offer Mr Heseltine the chance of entering the battle without being

## THE RULES

A Tory leadership contest on November 20 would be fought under rules established by Sir Alec Douglas-Home (now Lord Home of the Herschel). To avoid a second round Mrs Thatcher must win an overall majority, taking 15 per cent more of the votes than any other candidate. Michael Heseltine's supporters talk of having 100 votes, but this would be insufficient to topple Mrs Thatcher. With 371 Tories entitled to vote the minimum required to win on the first ballot is 186, with a majority over the next candidate of at least 56. Mr Heseltine, or any other candidate, would need a minimum of 159 votes to see the contest through to a second round on November 27, which could be entered by candidates not fighting the first round. A simple majority is then enough to win. If not achieved there would be a third round between the leading three.

seen as the man who split the party. The prime minister would see off such a challenge and be in a stronger position to resist any suggestion from the "men in grey suits" next spring that it was time she left for the good of the party.

Mr Heseltine's advisers are assuring him that, as long as he wins more than 100 votes, he will not be damaged for the future, even if he fails to beat

Mrs Thatcher or secure enough votes to push her into a second round.

This, they say, is his best chance of winning the Tory leadership. If he passes up the opportunity, Mrs Thatcher will lead the party into the next election. If she wins it, she may stay on to the point where he becomes a representative of the older generation (he will be 60 in 1993) and other, younger leadership candidates like John Major and Chris Patten will come through to pip him. Finally, if he means what he says, he should fight for the leadership in time to turn round the Tory fortunes and win the next election.

The group advising Mr Heseltine to hold back say he will lose no kudos in backing away from a contest that they believe has been engineered by Fleet Street. They emphasise the risks of him being seen as splitting the party by provoking a contest he cannot be sure of winning, whereas, if he does become the leader after Mrs Thatcher, he needs to be a unifying force.

They suggest that right wingers who would be willing to support him when Mrs Thatcher had stood down would not vote for him if there were a straight contest between the prime minister and Mr Heseltine.

Whoever he listens to, Mr Heseltine has to gamble.

Ronald Butt, page 12  
Leading article, page 13



On the brink: Heseltine at his home in Thetford, Northamptonshire, on Saturday

## Polls give a clue to key question MPs are facing

THE key question for most MPs in any Tory leadership contest is under which leader will we have the best chance of winning the next election? Those in marginal seats will add the rider: under which will I have the best chance of retaining my seat?

The polling evidence to answer this question dates back largely to the aftermath of the previous by-election disaster for the Tories at Mid-

Staffs in March (Robin Oakley writes). ICM, for the *Sunday Correspondent*, then found party support running at Labour 55 per cent and Conservatives 28 per cent. When respondents were asked how they would vote if Mr Heseltine were Tory leader, the Labour lead fell to 48 per cent while the Tory figure rose to 41. The decline in Mrs Thatcher's popularity and the advance in support for Mr Heseltine was underlined by two Mori polls in September last year and March this year. These asked which of a list of Conservative MPs would do the best job of leading the party into the next election. In September 32 per cent backed Mrs Thatcher and 22 per cent Mr Heseltine. In March, 36 per cent backed Mr Heseltine and 13 per cent Mrs Thatcher.

A survey of 130 Conservative MPs taken from Nov 2-4 by Mori's On Line Telephone Surveys asked whom they would vote for if Mrs Thatcher resigned as party leader. Nearly a quarter (22 per cent) said Mr Heseltine.

Who would do the best job of leading the Conservative Party into the next election (%)

	Sept 89	Mar 90
Thatcher	32	13
Heseltine	22	36
Howe	10	8
Tubb	8	5
Stewart	4	2
Hurd	4	2
Major	1	1
Patten	1	1
None of them	7	12
All or any	1	1
Don't know	8	19

## How Thatcher the outsider triumphed

By DANIEL JOHNSON

A GLANCE at the Tory leadership election of February 1975 is enough to remind anybody of what vast changes nearly 16 years of Margaret Thatcher's party leadership have wrought.

Apart from Sir Geoffrey Howe (who stood in the second round in 1975), the prime minister herself — an outsider who had then held

none of the great offices of state — is almost the only common factor between the contest of 1975 and Michael Heseltine's prospective challenge today.

Defeat at two general elections in 1974 and the prospect of a long spell in opposition led to a consensus in the party that Edward Heath's leadership must be tested. Mrs

Thatcher decided to challenge Mr Heath, three months before the ballot, only after her mentor Sir Keith (now Lord) Joseph had said that he would not stand.

The first ballot on February 4 showed that Mrs Thatcher represented the authentic voice of the backbenches: 130 voted for her, against 119 for Mr Heath. The late Hugh

Fraser received 16 votes. Mr Heath resigned.

In the second round a week later, most Heathite loyalists rallied behind the party chairman, William (now Viscount) Whitelaw and the final tally was 146 for Mrs Thatcher, 79 for Willie Whitelaw, 19 apiece for Sir Geoffrey Howe and James Prior, and 11 for John Peyton.

## CORRECTION

In our report of the Chancellor's autumn statement we said that the budget for the Lord Chancellor's department had not increased in real terms. In fact the money for all government legal departments has not increased in real terms, but the Lord Chancellor's department has received a real terms increase of 9.7 per cent.

from The Mouth of The Lough.



## HOGSHEAD REVISITED.

THE ABERLOUR aficionado's tastes in literature could never be described as catholic. For example, he certainly will not brook the works of Waugh The Elder. Witness only the cringing crescendo of "Brideshead Revisited". Graham Greene, the thinking man's Barbara Cartland, meanwhile, seems sorely pressed to find new subject matter for his 897th novel. "Our Man in Havant", we hear, is its working title. And do you not tire of the New York Jewish novelist's novel about the New York Jewish novelist writing a novel about the New York Jewish novelist? Trollope by name, trollope by nature, declines to use one word where six hundred will do. In Trollope,

a description of a simple Victorian lace antiques dealer can run to over 60 pages. C. Beckett, on the other hand, will not use one where none will do. C. T. R. rib-tickling Nordic double-act of Isaac and Strindberg can at least be forgiven their gloom. Six months of darkness can go on so slowly in Oslo. C. With cosy, rosy Benjamin, meanwhile, one constantly finds oneself up in a spire and yet never quite inspired. C. No. It is the taut narrative power of a William Golding or a Gunter Grass that holds the Aberlour man in thrall. C. And while his eye will often be drawn to the rock-hewn gutters of Burns, he can be sure that Burns will never beset his palate.

## Key votes from a pool of discontent

THERE are two obvious pools of the potentially discontented from whom Michael Heseltine's campaign managers would hope to draw the bulk of his support in a leadership contest.

Among the 371 Conservative MPs who would have a vote there are 95 who have been in the Commons since Mrs Thatcher became prime minister in 1979 or before that and who have not been given government jobs.

There are a further 78 who have served a turn on the front bench in opposition, who have been whips or who have been ministers and who no longer hold such office.

There are also many former frontbenchers who left voluntarily or without rancour. Men like Sir William Clark, George Younger and Nicholas Ridley are clearly unlikely to be voting against Mrs Thatcher.

The first category of the so far unrewarded also contains some obvious Thatcher loyalists like George Gardiner, Michael Grylls and Sir Fergus Montgomery. Mrs Thatcher's former parliamentary private secretary. There are some MPs, too, who have made alternative careers via the select committee system.

But those who qualify on technical grounds for each pool are as follows:

MPs since 1979 or before and without a government job: Robert Adley, Jonathan Aitken, Richard Alexander, Sir Tom Arnold, Jack Aspinwall, David Atkinson, Robert Banks, Anthony Beaumont-Dark, David Gilroy Bevan, John Blackburn, Sir Nicholas Bonsor, Graham Briggs, Nicholas Brown, John Browne, John Carlisle, Michael Colvin, Patrick Cormack, Julian Critchley, Geoffrey Dickens, Densmore Dover, Hugh Dykes, Sir John Farr, George Gardiner, Sir Alan Glyn, John Gorst, Harry Greenway, Peter Griffiths, Michael Grylls, Keith Hampton, John Hamman, Alan Haselhurst, James Hill, Sir Peter Hordern, Ralph Howell, Sir John Hunt, Sir Charles Irving, Toby Jessel, Dame Jill Knight, David Knox, Michael Latham, Ivan Lawrence, Sir Ian Lloyd, Andrew Macleay, David Maud, Paul Marland, Tony Marlow, Michael Mates, Robin Maxwell Hyslop, Sir Robert McCrindle, Sir Michael McNair Wilson, Sir Anthony Meyer, Sir Hal Miller, Iain Mills, Norman Miscampbell, Roger Moore, Sir Fergus Montgomery, Michael

Morris, Sir Charles Morrison, David Mudd, Gerry Neale, Tony Nelson, Richard Page, James Pawsey, Barry Porter, Tim Rabbone, Robert Rhodes James, Peter Rost, Sir Michael Shaw, Colin Shepherd, Richard Shepherd, Michael Shersby, Roger Sims, Sir Trevor Skeet, Tony Speller, Sir James Spicer, Robin Squire, Ivor Stanbrook, Anthony Steel, Sir John Stokes, Peter Temple-Morris, Neil Thorne, Malcolm Thornton, John Townend, Cyril Townsend, Neville Trotter, William Walker, Gary Walker, Sir Dennis Walters, John Ward, Kenneth Warren, Bowen Wells, Sir John Wheeler, John Wilkinson, Nicholas Winterston and Mark Wolfson.

Former ministers, whips or front bench spokesmen no longer in office:

Michael Allison, Julian Amery, William Bynon, John Biffen, Sir Peter Blaker, Robert Boscawen, Peter Bottomley, Sir Rhodes Boyson, Sir Bernard Braine, Alick Buchanan-Smith, Sir Anthony Buck, Nicholas Budgen, John Butcher, Paul Channon, Winston Churchill, Sir William Clark, Edwin Currie, Robert Dunn, Tony Durant, Sir Peter Emery, Sir Nicholas Fairbairn, Dame Peggy Fenner, Sir Geoffrey Finsberg, Sir Norman Fowler, Sir Marcus Fox, Peter Fry, Sir Ian Gilmour, Sir Philip Goodhart, Sir Anthony Grant, Sir Eldon Griffiths, Sir Barney Hayhoe, Edward Heath, Michael Heseltine, Robert Hicks, Terence Higgins, Sir Geoffrey Howe, David Howell, Sir Geoffrey Johnson-Smith, Dame Elaine Kellie-Bowman, Nigel Lawson, John Lee, Jim Lester, Richard Luce, Neil Macfarlane, Michael Marshall, Sir Patrick McNair-Wilson, Sir David Mitchell, Sir Hector Monro, John Moore, Michael Newbert, Patrick Nicholls, Cranleigh Onslow, Sir Geoffrey Paine, Sir David Price, Timothy Raison, Nicholas Ridley, Sir Julian Ridsdale, Marion Roe, Sir Hugh Rossi, Sir Giles Shaw, Sir William Shelton, Sir Dudley Smith, Keith Speed, Sir John Stanley, Allan Stewart, Sir John Stradling-Thomas, Sir Peter Tappell, Teddy Taylor, Norman Tebbit, Donald Thompson, Richard Tracey, Sir Gerard Vaughan, Peter Viggers, George Walden, Peter Walker, Ray Whitney, Jerry Wiggin and George Younger.

By the way, the Times overseas editions are: Australia \$2.25, Belgium 10 F, 80c, Canada 10c, Denmark 16c, 10c, France 10c, Germany 10c, 80c, Greece 10c, 20c, Hong Kong 10c, 20c, India 10c, 20c, Japan 10c, 20c, Korea 10c, 20c, Malaysia 10c, 20c, New Zealand 10c, 20c, Pakistan 10c, 20c, Portugal 10c, 20c, Singapore 10c, 20c, South Africa 10c, 20c, Sweden 10c, 20c, Switzerland 10c, 20c, Taiwan 10c, 20c, USA 25c, 30c.

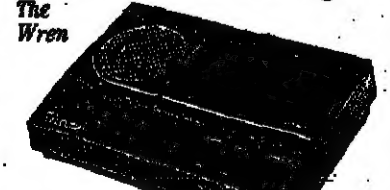


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# Oil industry spends £750m to pre-empt Piper Alpha finding

By KERRY GILL

THE North Sea oil and gas industry is spending at least £750 million on offshore safety improvements, in the hope of pre-empting recommendations in Lord Cullen's report on the Piper Alpha disaster, which will be published today.

Since Occidental's platform was destroyed in a series of explosions on July 6 1988, with the loss of 167 lives, safety has become a public issue. Ronald McDonald, chairman of the offshore industry liaison committee, the unofficial union organisation which has campaigned for better safety for the past two years, said: "Nobody took any notice of us before. Warnings that a disaster was waiting to happen were utterly ignored. Now safety is under constant scrutiny by the media. It would not have happened without Piper Alpha, and that has to be one of the most positive legacies of this disaster."

Evidence given at the year-long Piper Alpha public enquiry, along with pressure from the unions, is expected to result in overall responsibility

for maintaining safety being transferred from the energy department to the Health and Safety Executive or a new, independent body. The oil companies want safety measures to be kept flexible, allowing individual offshore installation managers to assess risks and act accordingly under company management instructions. Some platforms have already introduced safety measures, from improved permit-to-work procedures to better escape methods.

Lord Cullen is expected to focus attention on the positioning of accommodation modules. Eighty-one men died on Piper Alpha when the main accommodation caught fire and crashed into the sea. Most died from smoke inhalation.

By law, oil companies have had to set up safety groups on all installations, which have to have representatives elected by the workforce. Lord Cullen's recommendations will also be backed up by government legislation.

The positioning of accommodation modules is expected to be governed by assessment of individual risks on each

installation. Companies will be left to decide whether they should be completely separate or placed as far from the production process as possible. The number of safety inspectors is expected to be increased.

Frank Dobson, Labour's energy spokesman, last night said that John Wakeham, energy secretary, should use the publication of the report to recognise the bad industrial relations in the North Sea. He should make the operators, contractors and workforce get together to start a new regime of safety and co-operation in the North Sea.

Meanwhile, the Gulf situation and new oil and gas discoveries in the North Sea have led to new plans for a multi-million pound development of Europe's largest oil terminal, in Shetland, according to workers and contractors. The news comes just a year after BP, which operates Sullom Voe terminal on behalf of about 30 oil companies, outlined a plan to scale down activity at the plant. The company has, however, denied a change of heart.

## Beating the odds on the streets

Years of race abuse for Britain's longest serving black policeman typify the reasons why so few ethnic recruits stay in the force, writes Stewart Tendler

MORE than 20 years after Norwell Roberts became London's first black policeman he vividly remembers the day on the beat when a passing motorist wound down his window to shout racial abuse. The driver was also a policeman, as were his passengers.

When he complained to a senior officer he was told: "What do you want me to do about it?" At that moment Mr Roberts came close to resigning. Now a detective sergeant and the longest serving black officer in the country, his experiences may form part of Home Office research into why so many officers from ethnic backgrounds leave. Last year Scotland Yard recruited 1,791 new



Shop talk: Supt Tariq Ghaffur, Britain's highest ranking ethnic police officer, promoting public relations in Loughborough

officers from ethnic backgrounds but this was set against a loss of 1,533 officers. There are still just 1,700 officers from ethnic backgrounds among 126,000 police in England and Wales. Recent Home Office re-

search indicates that senior officers underestimate the impact of racial attitudes within forces. Several weeks ago Police Constable Surinder Singh, a Nottinghamshire officer, made legal history by proving that racial

discrimination prevented him joining the CID.

New guidance sent out to chief constables on recruiting warns: "Race relations within the police force are crucial. Officers from ethnic minorities find that their ethnic origins are the subject of frequent comments from colleagues. Clear action should be taken to ensure all ranks understand racialist language is unacceptable."

Twenty-three years ago Mr Roberts, now aged 45, also underestimated police reaction when he joined. "I had encountered no problems working as a laboratory technician. Perhaps I ought to have got some idea because while I was at training school I got a few nasty letters and, on reflection, I would say the chances are some were from policemen."

He said that everybody thought that he would face problems on the street. "My problems were inside the job not outside. People were out to test me and believe me I was tested."

The tests during his first three years ranged from sabotaging his uniforms and car to open abuse. When he drove a police van on patrol the van would regularly break down. He called by radio for help to take a prisoner to the local station and ended up pushing the man to the station in a wheelbarrow.

Officers would talk to him on the beat and then ignore him back in the station.

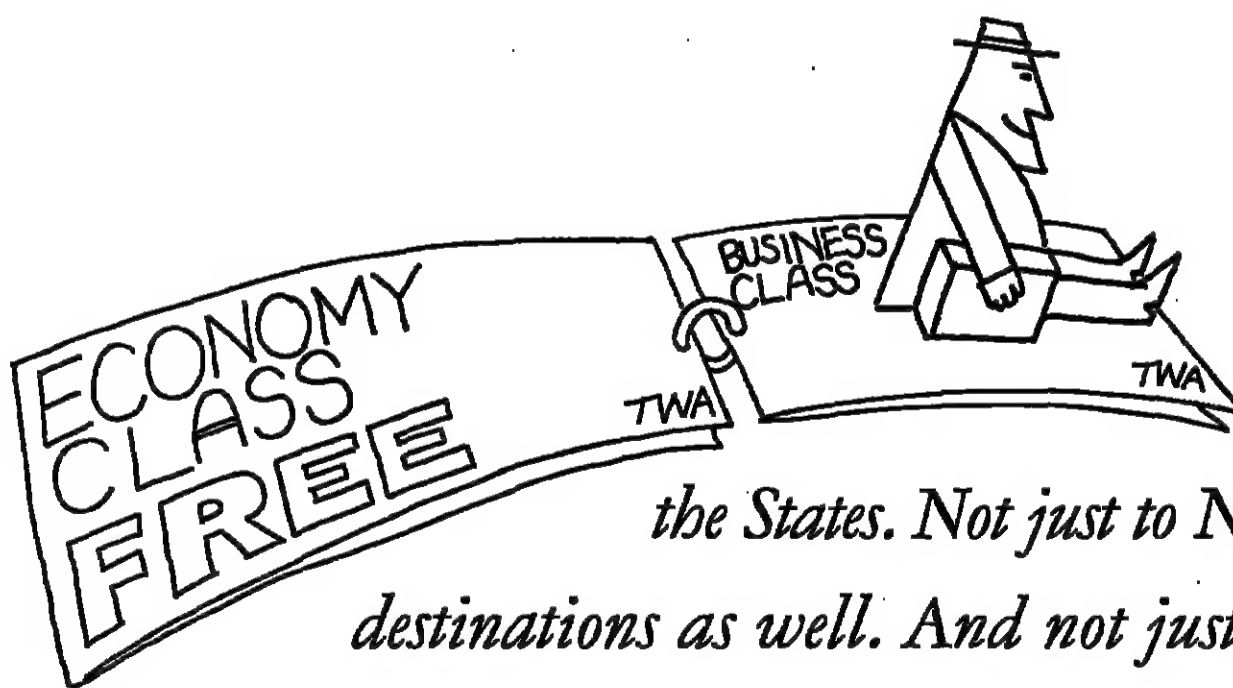
Senior officers and middle-ranking officers offered little or no support. He survived because of his determination to see the problems through and the support he got on the streets.

Sergeant Roberts said he chose not to use race relations legislation. "It was blackmail. You leave or we give you stick. They realised I was not leaving and they came round. If I had the chance again I would not join knowing what I know now. If I could start now in new circumstances I would do it," he said. "They have a better deal now. The treatment now is absolutely nothing."

Faced with such racial comments Superintendent Tariq Ghaffur, the most senior officer from an ethnic background in the British police, has always remonstrated with the speaker. "I would not tolerate any racist or sexist remarks. What I would do was get the person on one side and say it is not acceptable."

Mr Ghaffur, aged 35, the first officer from an ethnic background to join the Manchester police 17 years ago, commands the Loughborough sub-division in Leicestershire and is forecast to reach the top ranks within the next few years. Like Sergeant Roberts he did not join to set a benchmark for his community. At the age of 18, he became the "breadwinner" for his family and the police offered the best pay.

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## £2m drugs seizure at hotel

Customs investigators worked under cover as hotel porters and receptionists for eight days before a trap was sprung to capture a drugs distribution ring and £2million worth of heroin, officials said yesterday.

They said 12 kgs of drugs had been concealed in a hotel bedroom at Manchester airport. Customs and police officers held two men as they left the hotel room late on Saturday night and within hours five more people, including two women, were held in Liverpool and Bradford.

## Training survey

Northern employers are more likely than those in the South to persevere with the government's youth training programme and to try to improve its quality, according to a survey of 1,400 firms published today by the Institute of Manpower Studies.

A large minority of firms in the South have never participated and there is a high drop-out rate among those who do join.

## Ammonia leak

Three workers were taken to hospital and 80 homes evacuated after ammonia leaked from a frozen food factory in Grimsby yesterday. About 50 firemen, many wearing breathing apparatus, were sent to the scene, as was a fleet of ambulances. Fire crews in full chemical protection suits used spray jets to disperse the gas in a new multi-million pound extension to the plant.

## Accident video

A teenager jailed for killing a friend in a car crash is to lead a road safety campaign. Matthew Walker, aged 19, of Knaresborough, north Yorkshire, approached police with the idea of making a video about the accident after serving a nine month sentence. It will be shown in schools.

## Bond winners

Winners in the National Savings Premium Bonds weekly draw are: £100,000, bond 17DP; 291381 (winner lives in Lincoln); £50,000, 30TW 551655 (Kent); £25,000, 10KN 685260 (Essex).

## Ballot to pick Bar chairman

THE hotly-contested issue of who should be chairman of the Bar next year is, for the first time, to be put to a postal ballot of the 90-strong Bar Council (Frances Gibb writes).

The move to put the chairmanship to a postal vote was agreed at a meeting of the Bar Council, on Saturday. Under its constitution, a postal ballot must be held if at least 12 council members ask for it. A total of 16 barristers requested the measure.

The contenders for the chairmanship are Anthony Scrivener, QC, deputy Bar chairman, and Richard Southwell, QC, a key policy maker. The closing date for votes is November 19. The contested post of deputy chairman will also be put to a postal ballot.

## ADVERTISMENT Breakthrough for male sex problems

AN important breakthrough in the treatment of male impotence has led to unprecedented success in recent clinically controlled trials.

Results of the new treatment on 1500 men has proved that the majority of sufferers can now be successfully treated. A spokesman for The London Diagnostic Centre, a leading independent clinic specialising in the field of male sexual problems said yesterday:

"Male impotence affects far more men than is realised and many of the cases previously diagnosed as untreatable have been helped to resume a normal sex life. Many men are already using this thoroughly tested and safe treatment in the privacy of their own home."

The fully qualified professional staff at the London Diagnostic Centre offer expert help and sympathetic counselling on impotence, premature ejaculation and most other psychogenic or organic disorders.

If you would like to know more and discover how you can lead a happy and more fulfilling sex life, please post the coupon on page 20 today.

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## THE VOLVO THAT SURVIVED THE TOUGHEST TEST OF ALL. MERCEDES OWNERS.

Researching a new car in Germany, the home of Mercedes, might seem a little foolhardy.

But the new Volvo 960 impressed even this partisan audience.

Over 60% of them agreed that the new Volvo looked luxurious.

Nearly 70% thought it looked very relaxing and comfortable to drive. And almost as many described it as having a 'quality look'.

Naturally we're pleased with this reaction, but not surprised. Few cars are as well designed (or put together) as the 960.

The top of the line model has an entirely new in-line 6-cylinder, twin cam 24-valve engine. Capacity, 3 litres.

Made of aluminium, it is extremely light and efficient but also remarkably smooth.

(As with all Volvo petrol-engined cars, a catalytic converter is standard.)

The new engine is combined with an electronically controlled automatic transmission that lets you select any one of three gear-change programmes to suit driving conditions.

The 960 also comes with a turbo-charged

2.3-litre engine. (Both models are available in saloon and estate car versions.)

Electronic climate control, central locking, ABS, leather-faced seats, cruise control, electric sunroof, electrically adjustable driver's seat and mirrors are all standard.

Naturally, the 960 has every safety feature you've come to expect of Volvo.

And a couple that are brand new.

We've re-designed the headlamps so they give a wider, safer beam.

(Thank the elks for that one. 25% of road

accidents in Sweden are caused by elks wandering on to the road.)

In the saloons, we've also added an integrated child's seat that folds out of sight when not in use. (Something even Mercedes haven't thought of.)

So if you're looking for excellence in your next car, even in Germany you know where to look.

Your nearest Volvo dealer.

**THE NEW VOLVO 960.**

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# Parties united on need to redraw council boundaries

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

UNPOPULAR artificially created counties and districts will be swept away over the next five years, whichever party wins the next election.

An unexpected consensus has emerged between Labour and the Conservatives on the future of local government. They believe that small is beautiful and that local civic pride must be rekindled.

The leaders of the 47 English and Welsh county councils, who meet in Cheltenham today for their annual conference, may, however, have less to fear from the coming changes than their district council colleagues. Labour is committed to reform but the Conservatives remain divided. Chris Patten, the environment secretary, opposes change but the prime minister has asked her Downing Street policy unit to examine options for reform.

Both sides point towards a redrawing of local government boundaries to create a single tier of medium sized authorities based on geographical areas with which local people

can identify. It would mean the abolition of up to a third of the 333 English and Welsh district councils.

The need to create authorities which inspire local loyalty has emerged as a central theme of both parties. Many of the new authorities envisaged would have county names, restoring to county status such areas as Rutland and much of the East Riding of Yorkshire, which was swallowed up in Humberside.

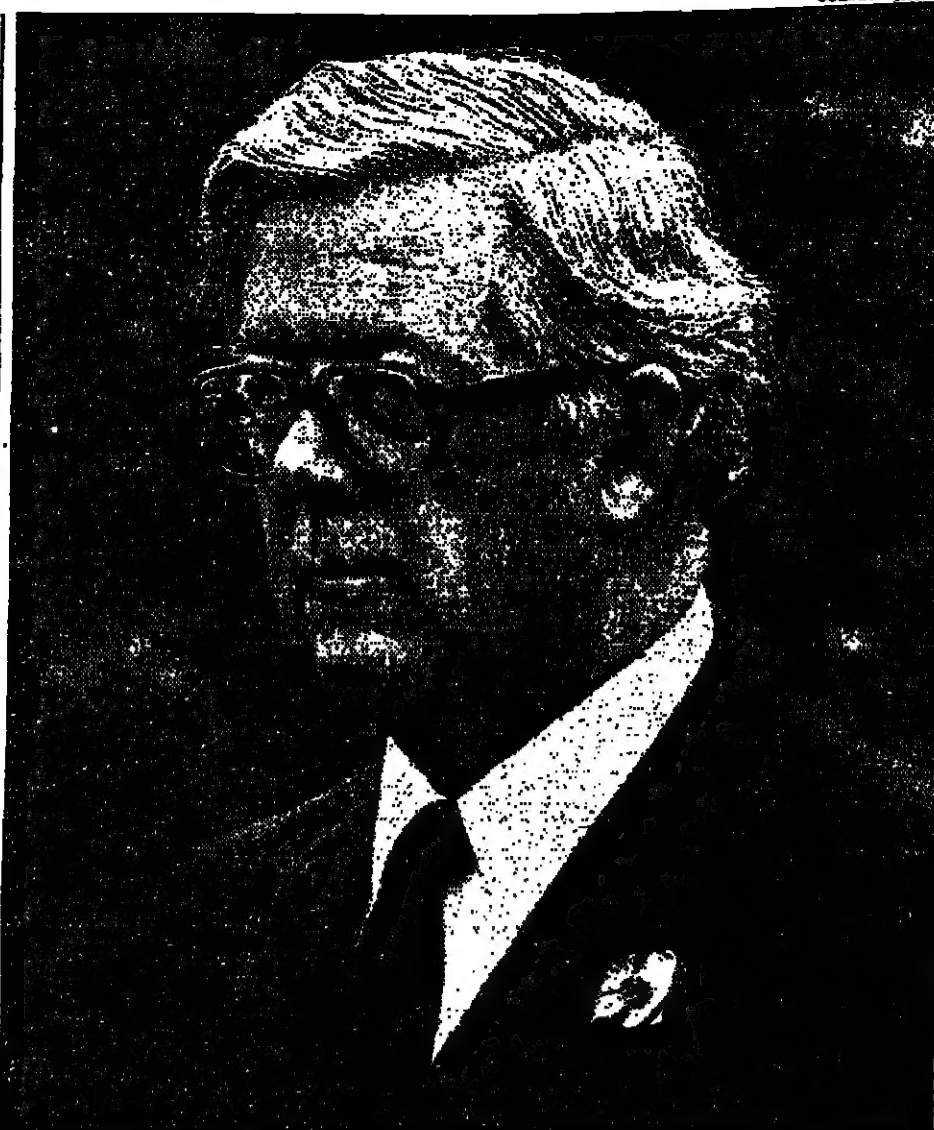
County boroughs would also re-emerge to run large cities and their surrounding areas, although the present metropolitan boroughs in London, the North and the West Midlands would remain largely unaltered. The aim is to overcome popular dislike of such artificial local government creations as the counties of Avon and Humberside and districts including Three Rivers in Hertfordshire and Boothferry in Humberside.

The role model is something along the lines of Wrekin, based in the Shropshire new town of Telford but

taking in a large chunk of the rural Marches. Its Labour leaders are fervent supporters of reform and a recent opinion poll conducted by the council found that most residents believed that it was responsible for all local council services in the area.

David Hutchison, the council's chief executive, said: "The majority of local people already think we provide all the services and it would be logical to let us do just that."

● The Labour party's plans for a fundamental reform of local government are to be expanded to include a review of the role of Parliament after the next election. David Blunkett, the party's local government spokesman, will tell the annual conference of the Association of County Councils in Cheltenham today that Labour wants to establish a new constitutional settlement to set out new roles for local and central government, on the principle that decisions should be taken as close as possible to the people they affect.



Low profile: Sir Geoffrey Howe at a Remembrance Day service at St Nicholas, Godstone, in his East Surrey constituency yesterday. Sir Geoffrey, who resigned as deputy prime minister just over a week ago, would say nothing about his plans

## Meacher puts realism top in strategy plan

Michael Meacher presides over Labour policies with guarantees. Richard Ford finds out how firm the commitments are and concludes the party's head is ruling its heart

AS SHADOW social security secretary, Michael Meacher is probably the most fortunate member of the team Neil Kinnock hopes to lead into government. For under Labour's new image as the party of fiscal responsibility and prudent spending, he presides over the policy area in which the Opposition has made its only firm public spending commitments.

Increasing old age pensions and restoring the value of child benefit are the two spending commitments with which Labour will enter the next general election. The party may highlight the needs of the health service but Labour has made no pledges on extra financing and admits that it would be unable to do everything at once.

John Smith, the shadow chancellor, reinforced this caution when he said: "Economic recovery is objective number one."

The party is committed to increasing by at least £5 a week the pension for a single person and £8 a week for a married couple and to restoring the real value of child benefit, an increase from £7.25 to £9.55. It will restore the link between pensions and earnings or prices, whichever is higher. To pay for the immediate increases, Labour will abolish the ceiling on employees' national insurance contributions and increase the top tax rate from 40 to 50 per cent.

"They are the only unqualified commitments in increases in public spending we have made. The rich, who have had a bonanza in the last decade, are going to be required to make a small but significant contribution to families with children and pensioners," Mr Meacher said.

For a party which has prided itself on the help it can deliver to the least well off, this cautious approach has provoked much private heart-searching. The Labour leadership is determined that it will give few hostages to fortune that can be exploited by the Conservatives in the general election campaign. Mr Meacher's discussion of proposals for improvements to other benefits is peppered with phrases such as: "We are not saying that it can be done immediately."

Two areas singled out by Mr Meacher as high priorities for a Labour government are improvements in assistance for the disabled and for people who look after the sick and elderly. Labour wants to increase the carers benefit, arguing that in the long run this will prove cost-effective as the

elderly and sick remain in the community rather than in residential homes or hospitals. Labour also says a better disability benefit, covering the extra living costs and providing an income for those who cannot work, should be provided for the 6.5 million appreciably disabled people.

Although Labour is critical of the 2 per cent government incentive given to people opting out of the state earnings-related pension scheme (SERPS), Mr Meacher said that the party was not opposed to personal pension schemes.

Labour wants to restore a range of benefits to SERPS and will base the pension on an individual's 20 best years' earnings. Self-employed and part-time workers will be covered and people will be able to pay extra contributions to earn a higher pension or take a lump sum on retirement. Mr Meacher concedes that while Labour's aims are ambitious, the party would not be able to do things "quickly".

He wants to ensure that companies provide more information about their private schemes. Legislation should require companies to tell people when it might be in their interest to return to SERPS, the scale of charges, and to provide greater detail of the scheme.

Mr Meacher said many people taking out personal pensions have taken a gamble, relying on investment in the market rather than on a person's salary during the first years at work.

With words that tacitly admit the change in Labour's approach towards those needing social security, Mr Meacher stressed the importance of encouraging people to be more independent. Whether the activist would like the cruel necessities of electoral politics mean that, so far, the Labour leadership's head is ruling its heart.



Meacher: most fortunate member of Kinnock's team

## Labour 'must add £3bn to pay bill'

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

AN incoming Labour government should spend £3.2 billion on public service workers' pay and set up an independent pay advisory commission to avoid electorally damaging strikes in the health service, education and central and local government, a Fabian Society report says today. But groups such as the nurses, police, prison officers, ambulance staff and doctors should not get special treatment.

These key recommendations are the first public indications of policy consideration in the Labour party about how a future Labour government would deal with the pay of the five million people in the public services, whose total pay is almost a third of all public spending.

In its policy reviews, Labour has been all but silent on the question, leaving itself open to the charges that without a public sector pay policy its claims to be able to manage the economy are doubtful, and that it still fears some public sector trade unions.

The report, produced by the Labour-affiliated Fabian Society think-tank, dismisses current Labour party policy on the issue. The Fabian report is produced by two Cambridge academics, Professor William Brown and Bob Rowthorn, whose work has influenced previous stages of the Labour party's policy review.

They say that the tendency of governments to react to pay discontent in the public services, rather than pre-empt it, had frequently been damaging to them electorally. The ne-

glect of many public services in the 1980s was likely to make the electoral damage particularly great in the early 1990s.

They reject the present government's patchwork approach to public sector pay, and dismiss ad hoc enquiries and indexation mechanisms. They describe Labour's policy proposals on the issue as naive, and propose a return to pay comparability, although they specifically preclude a return to dogmatic comparability, arguing instead for a blend of comparability and internal pay relationships.

They suggest Labour should bring public service pay relationships back to their 1981 levels, though differentially. This would add about 5 per cent to the total public service pay bill, they say. "At 1990 prices it would be of the order of £3.2 billion, equivalent to 40 per cent of tax relief on mortgages, or 14 per cent of military expenditure, or 1.5 per cent of total government expenditure."

Because this is substantial spending, the authors suggest that such pay increases should be phased in, but they warn that if nothing is done there will be growing public service unrest. Subsequent pay negotiations should be based on evidence from a permanent, independent public services pay advisory commission, along the lines of the conciliation service Acas.

A public services pay policy (W. Brown and B. Rowthorn, Fabian Society, 11 Dartmouth Street, London SW1H 9BH; £3)



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# Farming subsidies 'could be replaced by green payments'

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE European Community's system of subsidies for agriculture, which has brought the Community to the brink of a trade war with the United States, could be abolished without any overall loss of income for British farmers, a report by two leading conservation groups says today. The move could also create substantial savings for consumers and taxpayers and a more attractive countryside.

Farming lobbies in Britain, France and Germany say that even the 30 per cent cut in subsidies proposed by the EC as part of the Uruguay round of international trade talks would drive tens of thousands of farmers off the land.

That need not happen, the report argues, if the present production-linked subsidies were to be replaced by a new system of environmental management payments. The

report, commissioned by the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) and the World Wide Fund for Nature and written by Tim Jenkins, an agricultural economist at the University College of Wales, says that the prices farmers get for their agricultural produce should be determined by the normal laws of supply and demand in a free market.

That would immediately reduce Britain's net contribution to the EC budget, more than half of which is still spent on agriculture, by about £1,000 million, it says. Further savings would be made through lower consumer food prices, as it estimates that prices are 5-10 per cent higher than they would be in an unprotected market.

The report says that, even if 90 per cent of farmers applied for the proposed environ-

mental management payments, the cost need not exceed about £1,300 million a year and would be more than covered by the savings gained from freeing consumers and taxpayers from the burden of supporting artificially inflated farm product prices. The EC's common agricultural policy guarantees farmers a minimum price for much of their produce and protects them against cheaper imports by a high external tariff wall. The food surpluses generated within the Community have to be stockpiled or exported at heavily subsidised prices.

Under the proposed scheme, the price support system would be abolished and farmers would have to accept what the market would pay. That in itself would lessen the damage to the environment, it says, by reducing the financial incentive to over-produce.

The rationale behind the idea is that market forces by themselves do not reward farmers for "environmental goods". Supply and demand can determine a farmer's returns, but puts no market value on his contribution to the countryside, the report says.

Andy Wilson, assistant secretary of the CPRE, said: "We have to accept that many modern farmers no longer have an economic interest, on agricultural grounds, in preserving or maintaining such landscapes. If we want them preserved for non-agricultural reasons, it is not unreasonable to pay the farmer for their upkeep." The report says payments must be detached from food production, and suggests a basic payment of £30 a hectare (2.47 acres) for retaining or managing farmland and moorland, with higher payments for the upkeep of hedges, stone walls, wildlife habitats, traditional farm buildings, archaeological sites and the planting of new broadleaved woodland.

**Future Harvests: The Economics of Farming and the Environment.** The Council for the Protection of Rural England, 25 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0PP (£6)



Under threat: the majestic Douglas firs in Force How Wood, near Skelwith Bridge, which tower over native trees.

## Locals rally to save alien fir trees

By RONALD FAUX

THERE are aliens in Force How Wood near Skelwith Bridge, Cumbria, which the National Trust wishes to eliminate and local people want to preserve. More than 200 mature Douglas firs rise powerfully above traditional English trees at the mouth of Langdale, one of the most scenically sensitive areas of the Lake District. The trust admits that the trees, many of them 100ft high, are truly majestic but they are also inappropriate to a relatively rare ancient English woodland. They plan to harvest the firs and replant the area with native broadleaved species of oak and hazel. "The conifers are alien to ancient woodland and should be removed if it is

agreed that what little remains of our ancient woodlands should be preserved," the trust said.

Locals say the trust is being high-handed and is interested chiefly in the commercial value of the Douglas firs, which can equal that of oak. "These are magnificent trees that form a natural cathedral," Don Mounsey, whose home overlooks the woods, said. "The trust says they are rotten and dying and that simply is not true. They were going to go ahead and fell the woodland without anyone knowing. It was not until the work asked if he could extract the timber across the land of one local resident that we knew anything about it." Roberta Smithies threatened to

chain herself to the trees if the trust tried to cut them down. She said: "I have known those grand trees since I was a little girl. They are part of our landscape. The trust says they have reached the end of their days, and that is absolute nonsense."

The trust, which inherited the wood from a local estate, says that the trees have grown tall, thin and starved of light and air because of lack of management. Some were dead on their feet and some had fallen. "This is likely to accelerate until none is left standing. They will then no longer act as shelter for the rest of the wood and the grandest of them will be susceptible to wind blow." The trust has stayed its axe until a public meeting on November 17.

## Rescue team tries to save rare seals

By NICHOLAS WATT

AN INTERNATIONAL rescue team has gone to the coasts of Mauritania and Western Sahara to vaccinate a colony of rare Mediterranean monk seals threatened with extinction by a virus which has reached epidemic proportions, the International Fund for Animal Welfare says.

Only 500 of the Mediterranean seals remain, and the fund is trying to save them. Five seal carcasses have been washed up on the Spanish and Moroccan coasts in the past four months and it is feared they are victims of the morbillivirus that was fatal to thousands of seals in the North Sea two years ago. This week, the rescue team will start vaccinating a colony of the seals with the drug used on the previous occasion.

The monk seals, which live in colonies of up to 25 by the Mediterranean and on the coast of northwest Africa, have disappeared from their

former haunts along the French Riviera, the northern Italian coast and around the Balearic islands. There were 5,000 in the 1950s, but numbers have fallen so much that they are now even rarer than giant pandas and blue whales. Their sister species, the Caribbean monk seal, is already extinct.

The rescue team, led by David Taylor, a British veterinary surgeon, has responded to a call from the French and Moroccan governments. The team is using a French naval vessel moored off the coast as its base, and will vaccinate as many seals as possible in the next fortnight. The team also wants to capture six seals to form the nucleus of a breeding colony being established on the French Côte D'Azur. If successful, Mr Taylor hopes to reintroduce the seals into their former habitat at Port Cros, Provence.

## Ban on walkers 'not needed'

HILL walkers do not have to be banned from large areas of the countryside to protect rare birds that nest there, according to a report published yesterday by the Ramblers' Association.

The study, carried out by Roger Sidaway, a research consultant and a senior research fellow at Edinburgh university, found that walkers could co-exist with rare birds in moorland and mountain country, as long as care was taken.

The report, *Birds and Walkers*, said: "The work to date

suggests that there is no reason to prohibit public access, but there is a need for sensitive management."

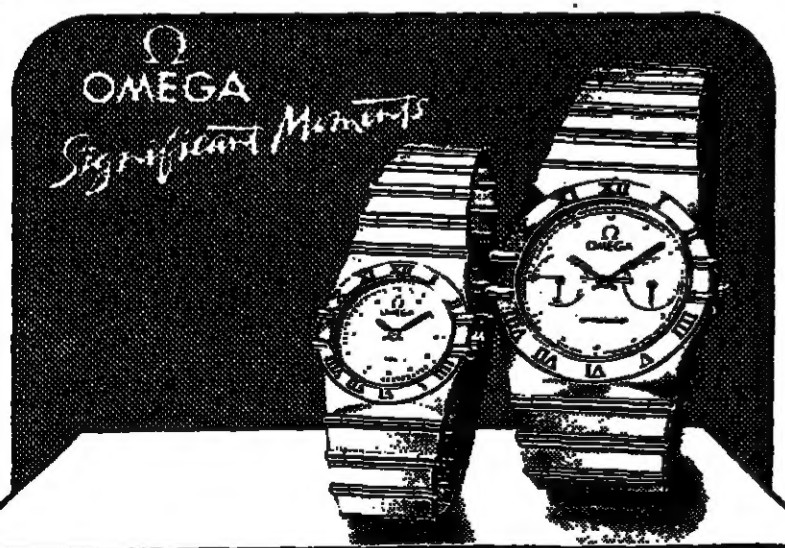
"That management must be sensitive to the needs of wildlife - that is, it ought to be based on scientific investigation - and it must be sensitive to the needs of those people who are prepared to enjoy the countryside in a reasonable way."

At yesterday's launch of the report in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, Alan Mattingly, director of the association, said that walkers must be

prepared to accept temporary restrictions in the interests of wildlife conservation. He emphasised, however, that the report offered no support to those who said that walkers should be banned altogether from some areas to protect rare species.

Nearly 2,000 acres of lowland has been bought by the Nature Conservancy Council to help safeguard a nationally important peatland area. The land, on the English-Welsh border in Croyd and Shropshire, will become a nature reserve.

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# Kremlin's 'scavenger army' makes its marks by racketeering

AT THE crumbling railway station in the village of Wunsdorf, south of Berlin, international trading begins early under a graffiti reading "Russians go home". By 7am, the Vietnamese are selling video recorders and hi-fi to the Russians, who are selling badges and hats to the Germans, who are complaining about the foreigners blocking the platform but do not show themselves averse to the odd bargain of uncertain origin.

Wunsdorf is the headquarters of the Soviet high command in eastern Germany. No one will say how many soldiers are housed in the row upon row of barracks — it takes a full hour to walk round the base's perimeter fence. The locals used to call it "Little Moscow",

but since the frantic trading of cheap luxuries started after currency union in July, they have rechristened it "Little Mexico". Soviet soldiers are strictly forbidden from selling army property, but to judge by the number of officers' hats and paraphernalia in circulation as souvenirs in Germany, the high command is turning several blind eyes to the redistribution of its stores.

The Russians huddling together on the platform behind makeshift stalls are not soldiers, who are too scared of being caught by their superiors, but civilian interpreters, mechanics and spouses who take the lesser risk of being recognised in return for a share of the profits. Vodka, caviar and cel-

Demoralised soldiers at the Soviet high command in eastern Germany are finding the lure of black-market trading irresistible, reports Anne McElvoy from Wunsdorf

are in generous supply. So, for those with more time and money to spend, are weapons which are falling off the back of lorries with increasing regularity. The German magazine *Tempo* recently acquired a surface-to-air missile, Kalashnikovs, tank grenades and mines for 6,000 Deutschmarks (£2,000), including a lesson from an officer on using the missile.

Last month, a soldier was shot at the base for trading weapons

with eastern German middlemen who have sprung up in the area.

Herr Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, announced yesterday that he intends to visit troops early next year after a wave of desertions from barracks and growing discontent there. At the House of Officers in Wunsdorf, the talk is of the growing rumours of desertion. The men had heard that 60 soldiers had deserted from the Potsdam base since the opening of

the border. Cleg Lyamin, a Soviet lawyer who defends deserters before military tribunals, estimates the figure for the Soviet forces in Germany is seven hundred.

German officials admit they fear an increase in desertions as the deadline for the withdrawal of the 380,000 troops in 1994 approaches. Many still believe that they can claim asylum, despite a German-Soviet agreement that deserters will be handed back.

Viktor, a military interpreter on his second tour of duty, says the conditions are growing worse, claiming: "We have been left to rot by our German friends." The Soviet officers mock the official language of amity by dividing the Germans into "old friends" —

eastern Germans — and "new friends" in the western half of the country. "New friends" have already taken over the officers' restaurant in the Berlin suburb of Karlshorst, turning it into an amusement arcade. No one seems sure who has profited from the deal. "I think there will be some very rich Soviet officers returning to the Soviet Union," says Viktor. "Old friends" have proved less reliable. Soviet communities all over eastern Germany are finding that local housing authorities neglect their properties and refuse to carry out essential work. Poor relations, including attacks on bases and off-duty soldiers, are the price being paid for four decades of domination of East Germany,

with crimes and mortal accidents caused by Soviet troops lashed up by the former regime. German cash union, has given Soviet soldiers hard currency which they could only dream of before, but the differential between a conscript on DM 30 DM a month and a major on DM 2,000 is feeding tension.

At the municipal rubbish tip in Dalgow, soldiers search furiously for furniture, thrown away by eastern Germans refitting their homes with Western goods. "We are an army of scavengers," says Viktor. Already there are rumours that both sides intend to speed up withdrawal to ward off tension in the German communities and the Soviet bases. The Russians could be on their way home by 1992.

## Moscow is threatened with food rationing

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

GAVRIL Popov, the mayor of Moscow, confirmed yesterday that the city council would be asked to approve comprehensive food rationing within the next two weeks. But he raised a storm of protest when he said that coupons would probably be issued for individual commodities with no indication of the quantity, so that the amount could be adjusted according to supply.

President Gorbachev has returned, meanwhile, almost empty-handed to Moscow after a two-day visit to Bonn. He was given no hard cash above the DM 20 billion (£670 million) in aid packages he negotiated from Germany in the months before reunification. He very much regretted, he said, the way the West was hesitating to help his reforms.

However Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, and Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the foreign minister, have promised to use German influence to persuade industrialised nations to support the Soviet Union. Germany is also sending a team of

experts to help the switch from a command system. A three-year agreement to train young Soviet managers in Western techniques is being extended. Exchange visits between scientists, artists and young people are being planned.

In Moscow Mr Popov, an economist and former editor of an academic journal, who continues to enjoy much popular support despite successive shortages of sugar, tobacco, bread and now matches, was addressing the opening day of Moscow city council's autumn session. In a pessimistic account of the economy, Mr Popov accused President Gorbachev of surrendering to the interests of the central apparatus and the military-industrial complex in choosing the slower route to a market economy.

He predicted worsening shortages and hyperinflation, and said that the promised indexation of incomes would not be able to keep up. Moscow, Mr Popov said, had been a "model communist city" and now epitomised everything that was wrong with the system.

The city council still had no jurisdiction over many enterprises and institutions in the capital, which are administered by the central government. They include the Moscow underground and suburban railways, much food distribution and the supply of petrol. Last week, Moscow taxi drivers parked their vehicles outside the city council, claiming that there was no petrol of the correct octane obtainable.

Although the subject of rationing will be decided by the full council later this week, the decision has the crucial support of Yuri Prokofyev, the Moscow Communist party leader. Speaking yesterday, in his capacity as leader of the "Moskva" political faction on the council, Mr Prokofyev said that existing resources were insufficient to allow the transition to a market economy and also maintain living standards for pensioners, families and the low-paid. Rationing was the only alternative.

The reason why quantities might not be printed on the coupons would be to prevent a recurrence of the present sugar shortage. Although sugar has been rationed in Moscow since the beginning of the year, there is now insufficient sugar to honour the coupons and people are returning to the black market for their supplies.

Leading article, page 13

## Gaddafi demands German damages

Bonn — Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, is to demand compensation from Germany for damage caused by Romania's Afrika-Korps (Ian Murray writes). He also told *Der Spiegel* that he wanted German experts to help remove mines planted in the desert during the second world war.

In the magazine interview, Colonel Gaddafi virtually admitted for the first time that the plant being built with German expertise in the desert at Rabta was designed to make chemical weapons. "If you want to free people from poison gas, you must bring in laws which make this kind of business illegal," he said.

Referring to the Gulf, he said the best solution would be for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait and the Americans to leave Saudi Arabia.

## Delhi team

Delhi — Chandra Shekhar, sworn in on Saturday as India's eighth prime minister, will begin naming his cabinet this week with a keen eye on small parties whose support will be vital when his final administration is tested in a confidence vote next week.

## Renamo talks

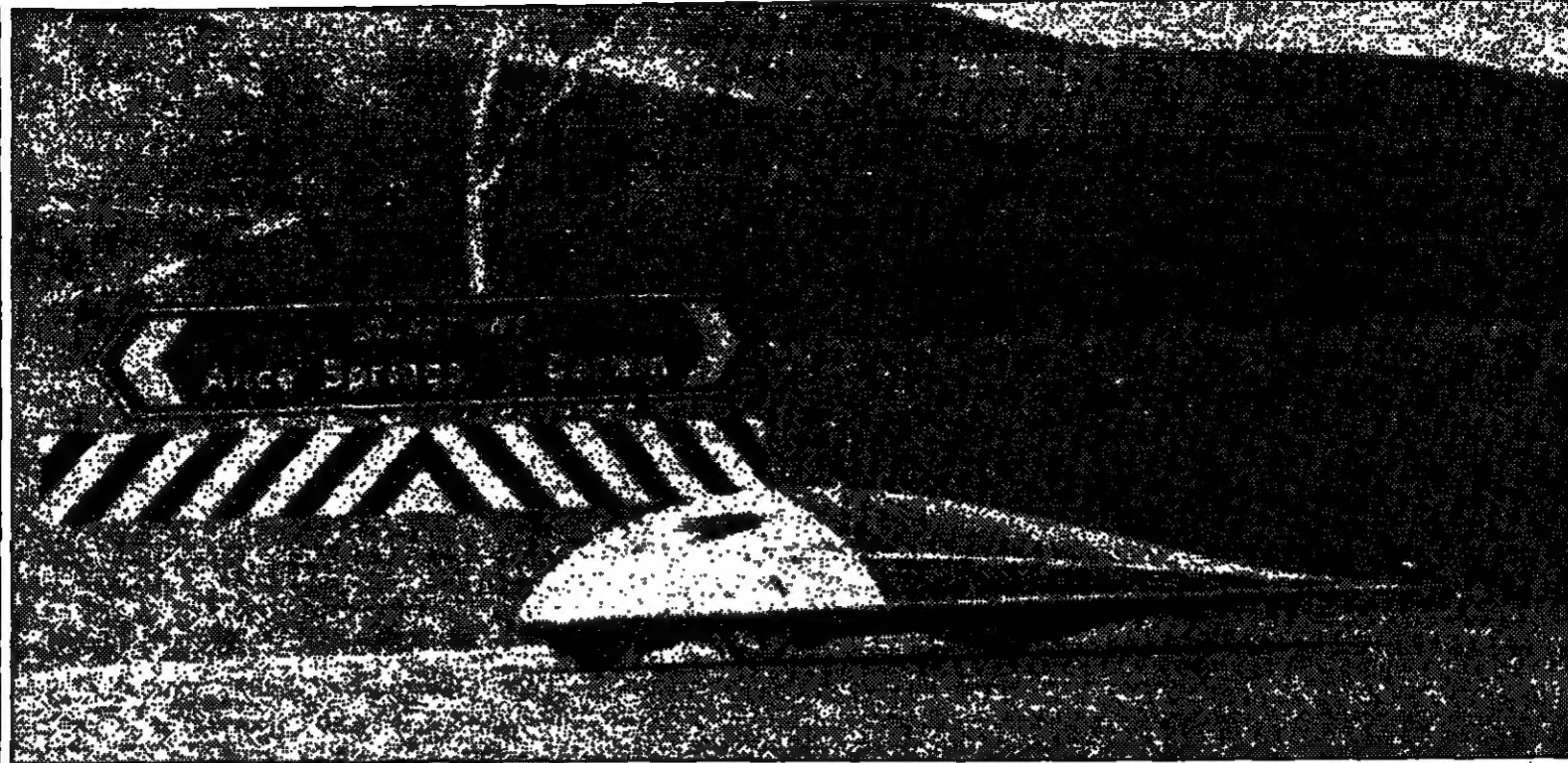
Harare — The ruling Frelimo party in Mozambique and the rebel Renamo movement settled down to a third round of peace talks in Rome at the weekend. Observers believe this round promises more progress as the Italian government has agreed to act as mediator.

## Border attack

Chad has accused Libya and Sudan of supporting rebels who attacked a border post on its frontier with Sudan at the weekend. A government statement said "hordes of mercenaries" attacked the border post. The rebels are believed to be led by Idriss Deby, a former army chief who has been trying to topple President Habré.

## Glittering prize

Geneva — Sotheby's here hopes the largest and purest diamond ever auctioned will fetch a record £6.6 million on Wednesday. The pear-shaped 101.84-carat African stone, 1½ in long, has been certified by the Gemmological Institute of America as the highest-quality white diamond, being totally colourless. (Reuters)



See run: the Japanese Solar Honda experimental car racing along Australia's Stuart Highway, south of Darwin, after the start of yesterday's 1990 World Solar Challenge Race. Thirty-six experimental vehicles are to cover the 1,900 miles from Darwin to Adelaide, powered only by the sun, in an annual race which has turned a scientific curiosity into an important environmental research project (Robert Cockburn writes from Sydney). This year, however, the start was delayed by

the first downpour of the rainy season in hit Darwin. Looking much like road-going versions of Solarbuses covered in dark solar panels, the fleet of contestants finally got away under cloudy skies on pre-charged batteries. Improvements in efficiency mean that this year's fastest vehicles travel the usually sun-baked highway through the heart of Australia at speeds of up to 57 miles an hour, 15 mph faster than vehicles competing in last year's contest.

## Berlin party to shed assets

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN BERLIN

THE reformed East German communist party voted at the weekend to disperse with most of its assets, estimated at DM 4 billion (£1.33 billion), in an attempt to shake off its connection with the old regime.

Gregor Gysi, the leader of the Party of Democratic Socialism, said that 80 per cent of the party's funds would be donated to universities, hospitals and community projects, with the party retaining only enough to continue its political work.

"We are making the cut that hurts," Herr Gysi said. "This clean break with the past will enable us to step into the political future with our heads held high."

The decision was reached after a 14-hour emergency session of the party's executive, which was meeting in the wake of a scandal involving the illegal transfer of DM 107 million (£36 million) to the Soviet Union. The party's treasurer, financial adviser and a leading regional official all resigned last month after it emerged that they had transferred the money to Moscow to avoid possible sequestration by the government body set up to examine the funds of the former East German political parties.

The discovery triggered a fresh wave of resignations from the party, whose membership has sunk in the past year from more than two million to 300,000.

The PDS grew out of the old Socialist Unity (communist) Party, which was toppled in last November's peaceful revolution. But Volker Kähne,

the official heading the investigation into the party's finances in the east, said yesterday that he was still disgruntled with Herr Gysi's estimate of the PDS funds at DM 2.3 billion (£800 million), a figure based on the valuation of assets before currency union with West Germany in July. "The party's renewal has not yet taken place," he said. "The old financial practices are still at play."

Western observers believe that a figure of more than DM 4 billion is closer. The party's assets include hotels in Germany and abroad, hunting lodges, and luxury properties formerly used by leading apparatchiks. Much of the property has since been leased to former communist officials, who have discovered the benefits of capitalism and started their own enterprises.

Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, agreed recently to sacrifice the assets which his Christian Democratic Union has accrued from its merger with the Christian Democrats in the east.

Herr Gysi said that he would also be cutting down the number of party staff from 212 to 75. It formerly employed 44,000 officials.

The PDS, kept alive almost entirely by the lively political style and rhetorical gifts of Herr Gysi, is expected to gain 10 per cent of the vote on former East German territory in the December general election, and is likely to enter the Bundestag. The clean-up of the party's finances is intended to try to recapture the disillusioned left-wing vote in eastern Germany.

## Emperor's enthronement poses dilemma for prince

FROM JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO

LIKE the hundreds of other foreign guests at today's enthronement of Emperor Akihito of Japan, the Prince and Princess of Wales will have to decide whether to raise their arms in the air and join the cries of "Banzaï!" to hail the new monarch, or to mumble their way through a moment in the rites that even many Japanese find awkward. Although "banzaï" means "May you live 10,000 years", the Japanese government is aware that the imperial salute is an emotional one, echoing the fanaticism of Japanese imperial army soldiers before the second world war.

The Japanese government expects visitors to join the triple cheer, but is not insisting on it. Since it is allowing only the well-behaved state broadcaster NHK to film the ceremony, guests will probably be able to wrestle with the matter discreetly off-camera.

The prince and princess



Akihito: many want to see recognition of his divinity

yesterday paid their respects to the Allied war dead at a Remembrance Day ceremony at the Commonwealth war cemetery in Yokohama. The prince, in naval uniform, and dignitaries from Canada, New Zealand and The Netherlands laid wreaths in memory of the 1,738 servicemen buried there, most of whom died while prisoners-of-war. After the 45-minute service the royal couple chatted briefly with veterans and stopped at the grave of Leslie Tassel, a Gordon Highlander private killed in 1945. The Prince of Wales is Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment.

As the emperor's chamberlains put the final touches on preparations for the enthronement ceremonies, 50,000 trade unionists gathered in Yoyogi park in Tokyo to protest against the coronation and to demand public funding for the ten days of rituals, which will cost the taxpayer \$50 million. Christians and Buddhists also complain about the religious rites they say symbolise the close ties that remain between the emperor and state Shinto, the religion which was turned into a national cult centred on the worship of the emperor as a living god. It is a role denied him under Japan's American-written postwar constitution, but there are many right-wingers who dream of a day when the emperor's divinity is recognised.

Japanese authorities say they are taking no serious threat issued on Friday in Lebanon by the Japanese Red Army terrorist group to fight an enthronement it described

as "the landmark of the revival of Japanese militarism and expansionism."

In Nishinomiya, western Japan, there were two explosions at the residence of the US consul general yesterday. Nobody was injured. Police said they did not know whether the explosions were connected to the ultra-left wing radicals opposed to the enthronement.

The bombings were believed to have broken at least one window. A US embassy spokesman in Tokyo said: "We have heard that two people went by on a motorcycle and lobbed something on to the grounds of the residence."

Radicals have already killed one policeman in a bomb explosion in Tokyo, and more than 37,000 police are patrolling the capital's streets.

Leading article, page 13

## Intimations of mortality in Red Square

—MOSCOW—  
COMMENTARY

MARY DEJEVSKY

IN Bonn at the weekend President Gorbachev assumed his classic role as world statesman and appeared to enjoy every minute. He strode on to the platform for his press conference and smiled and joked with the first postwar chancellor of all Germany. "I'll be saying more about this at the dinner this evening," he ended one answer. Then, alluding perhaps to an earlier conversation about money, quipped to Herr Kohl: "There will be dinner tonight, won't there?"

Mr Gorbachev's relaxed and confident air abroad, so evident in Germany, makes it hard to believe that the Soviet leader leaves behind a Soviet Union which has virtually ceased to exist except as the sum of its 15 republics and dozens of ethnic regions. This time, however, there was something else equally hard to believe. Had the Red Square gunman been better equipped, or a better shot, or more single-minded, there would have been no Bonn summit.

The two shots fired during the November 7 Bolshevik revolution anniversary parade seemed unreal, then and seemed less real in retrospect. Live shots sound distant

and hollow across a packed city square. While the gunnery was rapidly overpowered, disarmed and charged with "attempted terrorism", there is no authoritative information about the weapon or the direction in which he really aimed his fire. That is probably how the Kremlin prefers it. If the incident was a serious assassination attempt, better that the Soviet public remains in ignorance.

Serious or not, the shots on Red Square may help to concentrate a few minds — and not just the minds of the Soviet security services. They should also give Mr Gorbachev's hosts in Bonn, and elsewhere in the world, cause for thought.

If President Gorbachev had not authorised and signed the treaties underwriting German unity and the Soviet troop withdrawal, would Germans, and the West in general, feel as placid as they mostly do about the German settlement?

Without Mr Gorbachev, would the current consensus on the Gulf hold? The Soviet president is not its only Soviet supporter, but he is certainly seen abroad as its key guarantor.

In those trouble zones lumped together as "regional issues", Soviet disengagement has been pioneered by Mr Gorbachev with his foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, who is at times more outspoken and appears more open than his leader. How secure is Mr Shevardnadze's power, how strong is his influence without President Gorbachev?

At home, a dismissive Soviet public opinion might cynically argue that President Gorbachev's presence or absence is immaterial.

Many would argue that the Soviet Union can no longer be held together, and that ethnic disputes are only exacerbated when the centre intervenes.

Ultra-radicals would say ruthlessly that Mr Gorbachev's restraining hand is what prevents Polish-style "shock therapy", which in their view offers the only hope of economic salvation.

The cogency of these arguments depends entirely on who, if anyone, took President Gorbachev's place.

There is the possibility that someone (probably not Boris Yeltsin) might try to hold the Soviet Union together more cohesively than Mr Gorbachev has. Progress on human rights and civil liberty could perhaps be reversed, though the pace of social disintegration suggests it would be difficult.

These few examples of very many do not constitute an argument for the West to try to keep President Gorbachev in power regardless of the will of his people. They are intended only to illustrate how dependent Western diplomacy and Soviet politics have become on the will and the word of one man, almost regardless of the real power he wields.

If that one man were to be removed from the scene — and a better aimed bullet from a better gun by no means the only plausible way — many of the assumptions on which Western diplomacy and Soviet politics are assessed would go with him. The shots on Red Square have sounded a warning that President Gorbachev is not immortal, and that the contingency planning should begin now, if it has not begun already.

## Voters in Guatemala seek firmer leadership

FROM ALAN TOMLINSON IN GUATEMALA CITY

GUATEMALANS went to the polls yesterday hoping for the first time in a history of military coups and dictatorships to replace one democratically-elected civilian president with another.

But for the majority of the country's 3.5 million voters there was no election. For many, the past four years of civilian rule have brought only disillusionment and a deepening poverty.

The opinion polls indicate a likely run-off between the survivors of a large and colourless field of presidential candidates and an ignominious first-round defeat for the ruling Christian Democratic party of disgraced President Vinicio Cerezo, who cannot seek a second term.

More importantly, however, they show widespread disappointment with freely-elected civilian leadership, and a nostalgia for authoritarian power. Before President Cerezo took office, four out of five Guatemalans said democracy was the best form of government. Now, barely a third say so, about the same number who prefer military rule.

This could be reflected in a rash of ballot-spotting tomorrow, as a show of support for a retired general who has been barred from the race by a constitutional ban on the candidacy of past dictators.

Efraín Ríos Montt, a born-again Christian who ruled with an iron fist for 14 months after a 1982 coup, was the surprise favourite to win the presidency, until the supreme court disqualified him last month.

Campaigning on a law-and-order platform, and noted for his fire-and-brimstone speeches, he has asked supporters to write his name on the ballot papers anyway. Though he cannot be elected, he could be turned into kingmaker by a high proportion of spoiled ballots — if no candidate secures an outright majority in the first round, and a run-off is needed on January 6.



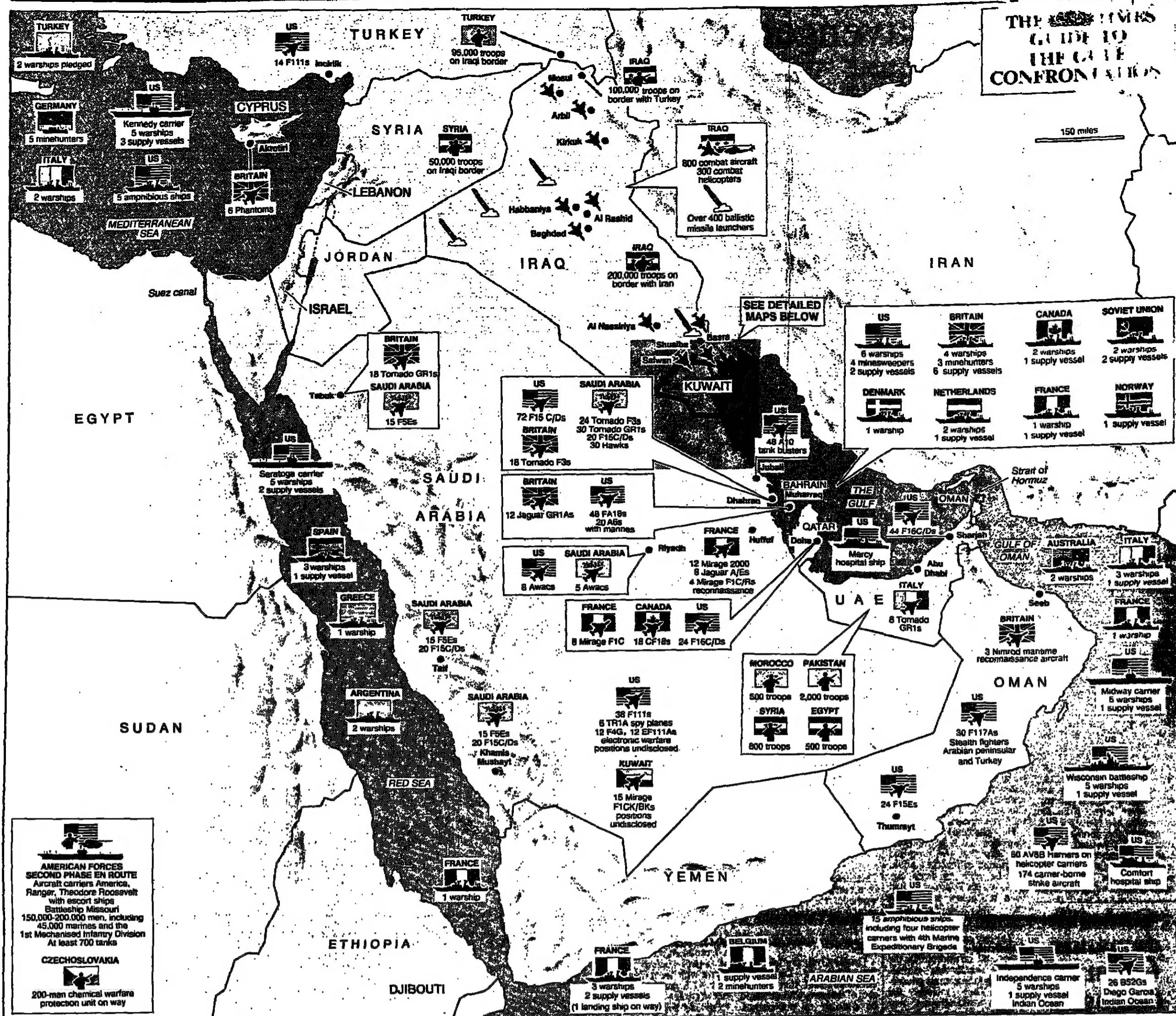
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The present line-up of allied forces on land, at sea and in the air in the Gulf, was supposed to be of sufficient size to defend Saudi Arabia against attack and to mount an offensive against the Iraqis in Kuwait. If President Bush decided to order an attack tomorrow, the job could be done, senior Pentagon sources insisted last week.

But even as officials talked optimistically about the capabilities of the forces in place, an element of doubt began to creep in. This is why President Bush announced he was to send reinforcements to the region, including three more aircraft carriers, up to 200,000 more troops and 700 more tanks. Why the need for extra men, if the original target—about 250,000 men—had been reached?

There are three reasons. First, the Iraqis have expanded their combat forces in the theatre of operations (Kuwait and southern Iraq) over the last two months; second, they have continued to improve their defensive positions; third, the Americans will have to rotate units eventually, even though Richard Cheney, the US defence secretary, insists that the reinforcements are additional troops, not replacements.

Pentagon sources, however, were adamant that if a decision was taken to mount an offensive in the near future, there would be no necessity to wait for the additional troops. Such optimism seems misplaced. Why send more if they are not to be used? The same applies to the extra Syrian and Egyptian armour promised. The Syrian armoured brigade will not be in place for several weeks, but there is no guarantee they would take part in an offensive. The additional Egyptian armour is said to be part of a putative six-month deployment programme. Britain's 7th Armoured Brigade will be operational by the end of this week. Their involvement is crucial to the American military plan, providing heavy armoured backing for the US marine brigades.

The sending of reinforcements is either an admission that the force levels are not adequate to launch an attack or it is part of an attempt to maintain the most important element of all, surprise. President Saddam Hussein cannot be sure whether an attack has been postponed.

As the build-up of forces on either side of the

Kuwait/Saudi border has progressed since the Iraqi invasion on August 2, there has been a gradual change in perception on the part of the Americans. Initially the Iraqi capabilities were regarded with a degree of disdain, although the calibre of the Republican Guard divisions was acknowledged. Today, no one underestimates them.

The chemical threat was at first treated with exaggerated alarm. But later, notices distributed to the forces referred only to short range hazards and senior military officers spoke reassuringly of how the chemicals would dissipate rapidly in the Saudi heat. Today, it is accepted that the Iraqis have not only succeeded in fitting chemical warheads to their modified Scud-B ballistic missiles, the longer range al Hussein and al Abbas, but they also have a limited biological warfare capability. Following a re-assessment of the Iraqi chemical threat, the Americans are dispatching more M1A1 Abrams tanks from Germany to join the armoured divisions in Saudi Arabia. The M1A1s have more effective protection against chemical and biological attack than the M1s, which will be held in reserve.

The allied forces deployed in the Gulf now total 320,000-350,000, of which about 240,000 are Americans—150,000-170,000 ground forces, 46,000 US Navy personnel and 30,000 air force personnel. There is a combined allied total of over 2,000 tanks. There are also about 970 allied aircraft in the region, either on land or at sea—270 air superiority fighters, 590 multi-role strike aircraft, 26 long range bombers (B52s at Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean), 64 electronic warfare and reconnaissance aircraft

and 13 early warning AEWs. The gravest threat of a war with Iraq would be its dangerous unpredictability. How far would it spread? An attack on its forces in Kuwait could provoke President Saddam into launching missiles with chemical warheads against Israel. How would Israel respond? With fighter aircraft, with a retaliatory chemical attack, or with nuclear missiles? It is in the interests of all sides in the region that Israel be kept out of the present confrontation. Israel's involvement could have devastating implications.

This is why the American military has emphasised from the beginning the significant role which would be played by the air forces in the first few days of a battle. Before any ground offensive is launched, American and British bombers and strike aircraft will have to attempt the destruction of every Iraqi ballistic missile site. Just one surviving ballistic missile, fitted with a chemical warhead, launched against an Israeli target, could bring untold consequences. This is where American intelligence gathering has to play such a vital role.

Much has been made about the American satellite capabilities. There are probably at least four imaging and radar satellites in orbit. They would include a KH-11 or KH-12 Keyhole photoreconnaissance satellite and a Lacrosse radar satellite. The most advanced models can distinguish tanks, tents and individuals on the ground. The Lacrosse uses radar to form images, allowing the satellite to see through clouds and at night. The satellites are assisted by American TR1 reconnaissance aircraft.

But photo and radar satellites are not geostationary, they circle the earth, passing over the Middle East area two or three times a day. This provides only brief glimpses of any one area in their path. The Iraqis are expert at camouflage and deception. Tanks and other equipment are often hidden under motorway bridges. The spy satellites have also failed to pinpoint all

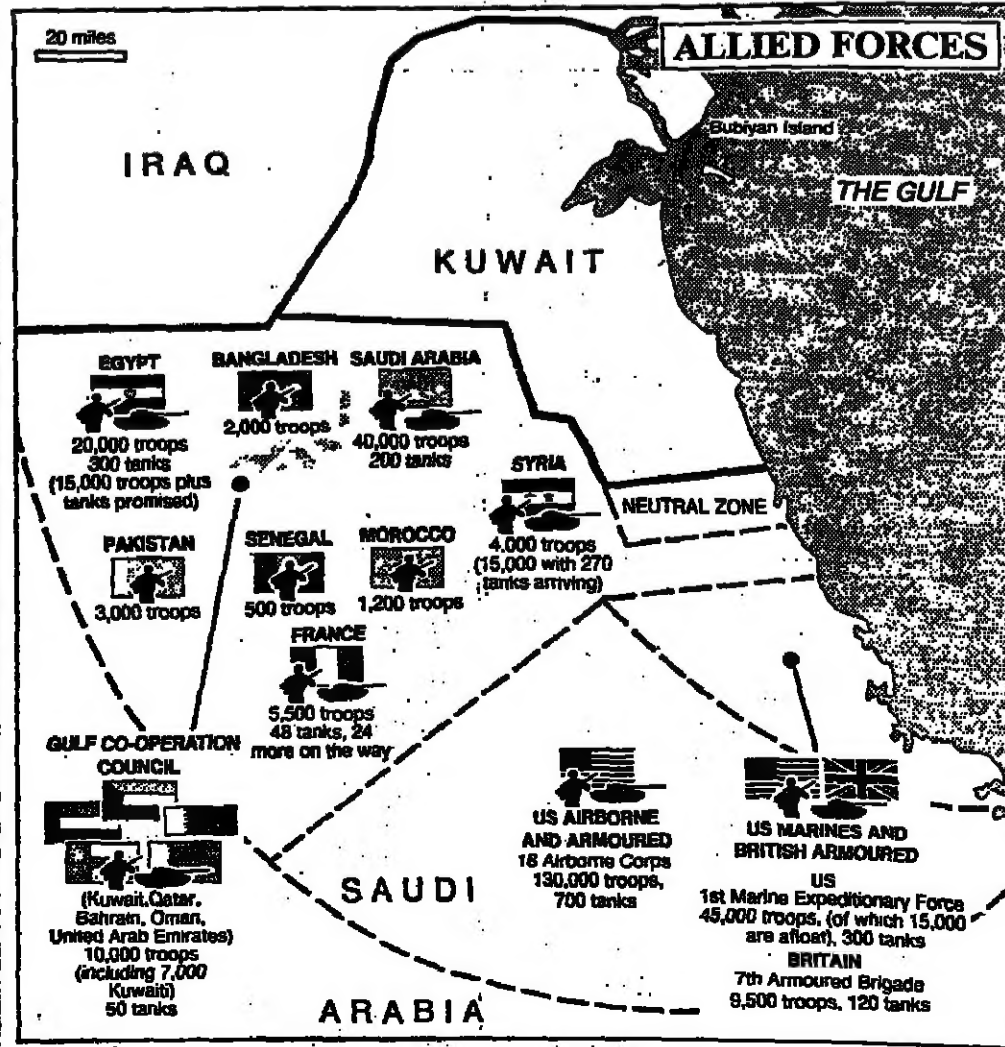
the Scud-B, al Hussein and al Abbas ballistic missiles deployed north of Baghdad and south of Basra. "We don't know where they all are all the time," one Western intelligence source admitted.

Apart from reassessing Iraqi capabilities, American military planners have also begun to consider different options for liberating Kuwait. The original plan was for a blitzkrieg attack by land, sea and air, lasting 24-48 hours. The Pentagon hoped the Iraqis would be cowed by the sheer ferocity of the assault. But the impressive defensive structures built by the Iraqis in Kuwait have forced a re-think. There are about 100,000 Iraqi soldiers along the Kuwaiti coastline, with tanks and totally unrealistic, especially if the Iraqi soldiers obey the orders of President Saddam and fight to the last man. A drawn-out war of attrition lasting weeks, not days, could double the number of casualties.

What if the Iraqis strike first? Although an attack across the border into Saudi Arabia has been largely dismissed, there could be compelling reasons for President Saddam to consider such a move. He has to be aware that the long waiting period could erode his army's willingness to fight. Low morale among Iraqi soldiers, not evident to any significant degree at present, might also lead to internal ferment.

One of the strengths of the Iraqi army is that defensive forces can be turned very rapidly into offensive ones. Iraq demonstrated in the final stages of the Iran/Iraq war that it had learnt the art of battlefield mobility. It is for this reason that General Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of the American forces, and Lieutenant-General Khalid bin Sultan, Saudi commander of the Arab/Muslim forces, have deployed their troops and armour 40 miles back from the Kuwaiti border.

As if to discourage Iraq from contemplating an attack, General Schwarzkopf was quoted last month in the American *Time* magazine as saying: "If Saddam were to attack, I would want to suck him into the desert as far as I could. Then I'd pound the living hell out of him."



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**FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER, WITH THE  
7TH ARMoured BRIGADE IN SAUDI ARABIA**

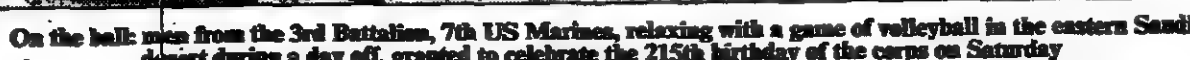
**Saddam interview, page 1**  
**Armament sales, page 12**  
**Remembrance service, page 24**

**FROM SUSAN ELICOTT  
IN WASHINGTON**

Meanwhile, the United States is keen to obtain a United Nations security council resolution authorising military action against Iraq.

## Bishops divided

Bishops in the Church of England are divided in their thinking on the threat of war in the Gulf, a senior bishop said last night. The Rt Rev William Westwood, Bishop of Peterborough, said: "We all think aggression is wrong. Where we are divided is in the limits of how far we would go."



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that the lower revving diesel is said to exert a calming influence!). In normal use, a diesel car lasts longer. This means that second-hand prices hold up well; if you sell a car with, say, around 60,000 on the clock, you know there's a lot of life in it and can price it accordingly.

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resignation on Wednesday, is a snatch at a straw. If he dilly-dallies much longer, the prime minister's charge will grow more convincing. If he cannot decide whether to stand, how would he ever decide to go to war in the Gulf? Or to sack a failed minister? Or to call an election?

Yet he must also be aware of the risks of standing. The prime minister is, as her Commons speech last week showed, at her most formidable with her back to the wall. Moreover, to many Conservatives, disloyalty remains the cardinal sin and disloyalty to this prime minister, who has fulfilled so many of her party's dreams, is particularly heinous.

Mr Heseltine has to calculate that he might not simply be defeated. He might be humiliated. To emerge with credibility intact, Mr Heseltine would need the backing on the first ballot of not less than 100 of the 371 Conservative MPs who are eligible to vote. There can be no certainty that he would get their votes. If he did not, the hours on the road and the weeks at the word processor, the coffee mornings and the chicken dinners will all have been wasted. His chance will have gone, probably for ever.

The Heseltine camp was keen to emphasise yesterday that it is perfectly possible that he will not challenge. Some of them argue that any embarrassment he suffered as a result would be

The first part of the ceremonies marking the formal accession of Emperor Akihito to the Crystalathroneum throne takes place today in the State Hall of the Imperial Palace. The presence of dignitaries from 158 countries is a tribute to Japan's importance in the modern world, but the ritual will bring forcefully home the enduring weight of Japanese tradition. Uneasy memories will be stirred as the prime minister wishes the emperor 10,000 years of life with the cry of *banzai*! The imperial family's remoteness from ordinary Japanese will be underlined by the absence of a coronation procession.

Tokyo's normally teeming streets have been cleared by 37,000 police. The main reason for such tight security is the domestic controversy surrounding the second, religious, ritual on November 22. The *daijiosai* is more than the "great food offering ritual" which is its literal translation. Alone in a shrine in the palace grounds, the emperor communes with the sun goddess Amaterasu in a rite which according to tradition transforms him into a living god.

The government's decision to finance this ceremony raises constitutional issues quite as lively as its proposal, rescinded last week, to send members of Japan's defence forces to the Gulf. In 1946 Emperor Showa, as Hirohito has been called since his death, renounced his divinity and the postwar Japanese constitution enjoins the state to refrain from all religious activity. State funding for the *daijiosai* represents a victory for the right, which rejects the American-drafted constitution as an alien imposition. The Japanese left has been more vociferous than any foreigner in protesting

purely temporary. This seems unlikely. His party is obsessed by the example of 1975 when Mrs Thatcher won because she had the guns to run. They will not be impressed if he ducks.

A direct challenge is also what is needed from the national point of view. Mrs Thatcher represents the ministerial party. Having forsaken office, Heseltine represents its critics. On the central issue before the party and government, Europe, he is among those who have adopted the issue as a way of criticising her approach to government. The criticism is less of substance (for Heseltine is no mad federalist) than of her style of leadership. But, as the man who first said that "there is no cabinet government" under her, he is well equipped to embody the alternative. He also, uniquely among her critics, has an alternative economic strategy to hers, a strategy which stresses the role of the state in reviving industry. With economic weakness one cause of the government's current electoral travails, only Mr Heseltine offers the electorate a new reason to hope for improvement.

What will happen if he does not challenge? A stalking horse will resolve nothing. Sir Anthony Meyer's candidature last year, brave though it was, raised all the old questions, inserted no new answers. No minister of substance is likely to break cover. Douglas Hurd is unlikely to risk a job he loves, for one he barely covets. The Majors, the Pattenes, the Clarkes can afford to wait.

That leaves Sir Geoffrey Howe. Howe does have some of the required qualities. He occupies a different position on Europe than hers. His style could hardly contrast more with the prime minister's. But, at 63, Sir Geoffrey is not a young man. His career is in decline. His resignation was born of frustration, rather than calculation. His would be a half-serious bid, whose result would only be taken half-seriously.

The leadership issue has to be resolved. The country needs to know whether Mrs Thatcher does or does not retain sufficient party support to remain a strong prime minister. If she does not, she must go. In the immediate future, there is only one serious challenger. If Mr Heseltine fails to throw his cap into the ring, he will thoroughly deserve to have it stuffed down his throat.

selling oil directly to Ukrainian nationalists. The Ukrainian economy is vital to Russia. Moscow has no choice but to come to terms with Kiev. But the most amicable divorce would still mean the end of the Union.

Mr Gorbachev has very few cards left to play. Mr Shebalin maintains that it is already too late to try to force the crisis to depend on stabilising the rouble. The Supreme Soviet has hitherto rejected all economic agreements which respect the sovereignty of the republics, with the result that the government's own apology for a plan is proceeding without any coordination between centre and periphery.

A new constitutional dispensation has been promised but not yet delivered by Mr Gorbachev. There is no consensus about the shape of any future Soviet commonwealth. The only immediate measure within Mr Gorbachev's wide-ranging presidential powers with a chance of success would be the delegation of the day-to-day running of the economy to the republics. Such devolution of authority would be a huge step towards a confederal system, but at least it would have been conceded voluntarily. He would then be free to concentrate on internal security, defence and foreign affairs.

The nationalists, too, have their problems. They know that a total breakdown of the Soviet Union would leave behind a leaner Russian Federation which, without the handicap of Leninist ideology, must sooner or later recover its strength. A resurgent Russian nationalist government might seem less congenial to the smaller republics than a weak Soviet one.

By playing on these fears, Mr Gorbachev might still hope at least to postpone the end, if, he can last until the spring of 1991 without bread riots. That is highly uncertain. The best — perhaps the only — method of averting them would be to deal on equal terms with the elected governments of the republics. Unless he can bring himself to compromise with Mr Yeltsin and other republican leaders this winter, Mr Gorbachev faces catastrophe.

against a ritual which some see reviving a cult of nationalism centred on worship of the emperor. Some citizens have even brought suit in Japan's courts, claiming a violation of the constitution.

These anxieties could be laid to rest were the Imperial Household Agency, which dictates every detail of imperial behaviour, to adjust its inward-looking traditions. It should reflect the emperor's desire to bring the palace closer to the people. Married to a commoner, Emperor Akihito has insisted on educating his sons abroad and made no secret of his envy for the relative freedoms enjoyed by Britain's royal family.

His sincere (if over-choreographed) statements of "regret" to China and Korea indicate that he would use greater freedom to promote a more outward-looking Japan. In a joint press conference with Empress Michiko last year, himself a remarkable innovation, he expressed the desire to deepen Japanese interest in the environment. He has little patience with the right's view that the emperor should be "as obscure as a Shinto god"; none with the traditional Japanese claims to divine roots which derive from the emperor's godhead.

Postwar Japan, pacific, industrious and in its own way democratic, belongs in the best, not the worst, traditions of the 20th century. A modern form of constitutional monarchy would consolidate and lend continuity to the country's remarkable transformation. Today's ceremony looks back to the past. May the emperor's reign embody the future.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Yours faithfully,  
JEM WARD,  
16 Ryelands Road,  
Leominster, Herefordshire.  
November 9.











Breaking the language and education barriers is the key to unifying the continent in 1993, John O'Leary writes

# Europe's Tower of Babel is tumbling

Many of the European Community's hopes for the success of the single market after 1992 are pinned on education. But the full potential of lifting the barriers will be realised only if the community's young people see themselves as Europeans and acquire the skills to be internationally mobile.

Many millions of ecu have been poured into schemes designed to achieve just this. Yet, since the Treaty of Rome does not mention education, such schemes have to masquerade as vocational training and, as such, are restricted to those who have left school. Until now, the European Commission has been content to make a virtue of this confusion. There has been little clear indication of what 1992 will mean for education itself.

All this may be about to change, however, with the rising stock of the education bureaucracy - now upgraded to the status of a task force - within the commission. Vasso Papandreou, the commissioner who is also responsible for the controversial Social Charter, has declared an intention to produce a green paper to "facilitate dialogue among the various actors concerned with the changing role of education and training in Europe, in the higher education sector".

Preparations began in Italy last week, when ministers held an informal meeting at the University of Siena. The two-day conference surveyed the growing number of initiatives managed by the commission, and looked at the implications of 1992, without making commitments.

Alan Howarth, the higher education minister, says: "It was a useful meeting. Nobody was pressed to sign anything, so there was a good review of the issues. The single market, with its implications for mobility, raises questions of who these mobile people are, what qualifications they will need and how they will fit into patterns of work."

Mr Howarth, and some of his counterparts, will resist any attempt to extend the Treaty of Rome to cover all stages of education, or to move towards a common system of higher education.

"There tends to be a bit of a suggestion that all this should lead

to a very deliberate policy of convergence of systems," Mr Howarth says. "We are all agreed on the need for compatibility, but the diversity and cultural richness within Europe is something that we should recognise and value." At secondary level there is considerable variation, for example, in numbers staying on at school beyond minimum leaving age. The British rate has increased significantly since the surveys examined in Siena, but several other EC nations remain well ahead.

The variation in course lengths is seen by the commission as a serious constraint on academic recognition and mobility, and a source of confusion to employers. There is little support, however, for standardisation.

The Treaty of Rome, always a political hot potato, will prove even more of a problem. Revision of the treaty was one of the three main topics in Siena and has been a long-standing ambition of many

**Demand for graduates with the skills necessary to work anywhere in Europe will grow stronger**

in Brussels. Last year's row, over proposals to include schools in the EC's Lingua programme to improve foreign language competence, showed that any further shifting of the boundaries within education will be strongly resisted.

Mr Howarth claims considerable support for his defence of maximum autonomy for national governments and higher education institutions, although he admits that different European ministers have different interpretations.

Even within the existing limits of community power there is scope for pan-European action. The enthusiasm for the Erasmus student mobility programme, in particular, shows what can be done, although the programme has a long way to go to achieve its ambitious target of enabling one European student in ten to take part of a course in another EC country.

A background paper for last

week's conference, produced by an advisory group of academics, speaks of the programme's "formidable impact on the European university scene". Almost a third of the 3,500 institutions recognised as universities by the EC are now involved in exchanges.

Applications for assistance under the scheme are running at three times the level of available resources. As in other European higher education schemes, Britain is leading the way. Every university and polytechnic is involved and more than 5,000 students are on exchanges.

For the Lingua programme, which is just getting under way, Britain will also take the administrative lead. The British Council, in partnership with the Goethe Institut and the Centre International d'Etudes Pédagogiques, is to run the bureau in Brussels which will promote the programme and advise the commission on its development.

The impact of such initiatives will be crucial to the medium-term success of the single market at a time when all EC countries are waiting to see the effects of a declining school-age population.

Although higher education enrolments have been rising throughout Europe, competition from employers facing skills shortages is bound to accelerate. Demand for graduates who can work anywhere in Europe will be stronger. A framework for such mobility has been in place since the EC adopted a system for the mutual recognition of qualifications two years ago.

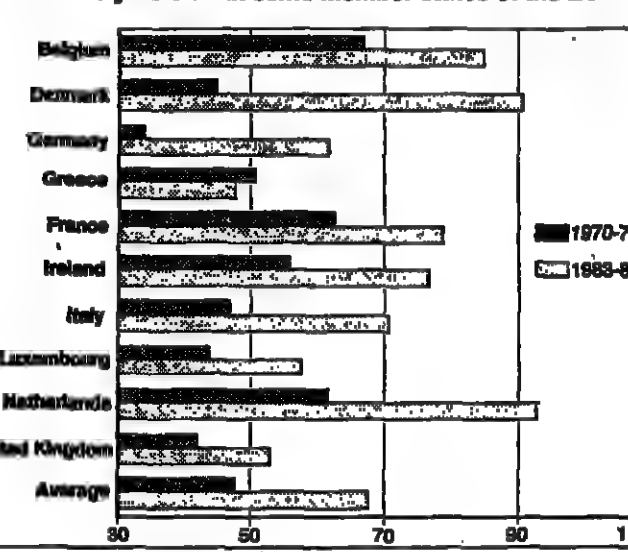
Having struggled for many years to secure agreements for members of the health professions and architects to practise in other parts of the community, the commission went for a general agreement, which recognised that diplomas requiring at least three years' study should be accepted throughout Europe.

In practice, the agreement has not always worked. Some countries still operate a policy of limiting numbers for certain professions, to ensure that there is no oversupply, and some professions remain obstructive. The biggest barriers, however, are still language, lack of opportunity and caution.



Foreign language: a British Council English class in Bilbao

STAYING-ON RATES IN FULL-TIME EDUCATION for 16-year-olds in some member states of the EC



## Time shatters the plate glass dream

THIRTY years ago, a small band of academics set out to change the face of British higher education. Presented with a rare opportunity for innovation, because of the existing universities' reluctance to expand, they started to plan new institutions that would break loose from the straitjacket of narrow specialisation, old-fashioned teaching and the ivory-tower mentality. Their ideas took shape in the seven campuses that are still described as the new universities.

Over the weekend, past and present representatives of the seven have been assessing, at a symposium at Kent University, how close they have come to achieving those ambitions.

The universities are East Anglia, Essex, Kent, Lancaster, Sussex, Warwick and York, an apparently homogeneous group of predominantly arts-based, plate glass campuses outside towns and cities of historical significance. Yet, Lord Briggs, founding vice-chancellor at Sussex and a member of the University Grants Committee that sanctioned the venture, insists that any similarity is largely accidental. Once Sussex had been given the go-ahead, bids for campuses came from locations as diverse as Stevenage and Whitby, and only Norwich and York were seen as presenting outstanding cases. Even after the seven had been selected, according to Lord Briggs, there was little contact between them.

"We were not a block in any sense," he says. "Nor, indeed, was any of the new universities seeking to 'export' its ideas to the other universities. I did not believe that we, at Sussex, had produced a pattern that was suitable for all universities in the country."

They had in common, however, the local links that partly enabled their bids to succeed, young and enthusiastic staff, and a belief that higher education could be broadened to make it more accessible and relevant to the times. Few, if any, of those in Canterbury over the weekend would claim that their impact had been as great as those early pioneers hoped.

The single honours degree has not disappeared, town and gown are not yet united and, ironically, the campus universities have always proved something of a magnet for the middle classes.

rather than opening up higher education to new groups of students. Undoubtedly, there have been successes. The new universities' emphasis on tutorials and seminars, rather than the set-piece lecture, has been influential and barriers between disciplines have been broken down. The universities may not have captured the imagination of the working classes, but they have brought more women into higher education and worked more closely with business and industry.

Harold Perkins, professor of history at Northwestern University, Illinois, in the United States, who provided the main external academic view at the symposium, concludes that the new universities have succeeded not in ending the pecking order of British higher education, but in breaking into it at a higher level. Their dream of a new map of learning which would guide Britain into the 21st century has not been, perhaps, could not be, realised by a mere handful of institutions.

"What we need in the Nineties is not just more new universities but the one dream that matters, the renewal of British higher education as a whole."

The seven vice-chancellors think that will be hard to achieve in the present financial

circumstances. In a statement issued today, they say: "We profoundly regret that the recent announcement regarding funding for higher education has not provided for the increase in all student numbers now planned."

"Universities are in no way comparable to nationalised industries whose success or failure may be measured by looking at a balance sheet, and whose income can be increased by raising the cost of the product."

"Governments should not push universities too hard to pay their own way. The pursuit of profit and commercial success can jeopardise the pursuit of excellence."

The vice-chancellors add that they recognise the rainy days of the Sixties have gone, but the students of Kent gave an ironic twist to those sentiments when they occupied the candlelit tables set aside for the conference dinner to press their demands for lower rents. Old traditions die hard, even at the new universities.

JOHN O'LEARY

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The closing date for applications is 26th November 1990.

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Further particulars are available from Dr Hilary Forster, Senior Assistant Registrar, University of Buckingham, Buckingham MK18 1BG, Tel: 0298-814880, to whom copies of three copies should be forwarded by 7th December.

#### The University of Buckingham

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# Beating the boys to the top

**Roedean is returning to its roots, taking girls hill-climbing to make them leaders.**  
**David Tytler writes**

When Jack Straw, the Labour party education spokesman, speaks to the 200 heads of the leading girls' schools in the country at the end of the month, he will meet a confident group, most, but not all, of them women, with a clear mission to provide their fair share of the professionals who will be in demand in the Nineties.

Anne Longley, the headmistress of Roedean, near Brighton, in East Sussex, the best known girls' public school in Britain, is typical of the new breed: determined and ambitious. She came to Roedean at a time when the school was leaning on its tarnished reputation, and had to compete with boys' schools opening their doors to girls.

Schools such as Roedean could no longer rely on the daughters of old girls to send on their children. Parents were demanding more for their daughters: a career, not just the skills to win a husband. "We are equal to the best of the boys' independent schools," she says. "But, if a girl is to succeed, she has to be better than a boy. There is a need for well-educated and confident young women and with our first-class academic standards we can provide them."

"This age group does not want to lose their femininity, and our generation was not sensitive enough to that. They are not student feminists but do want to be quietly assertive."

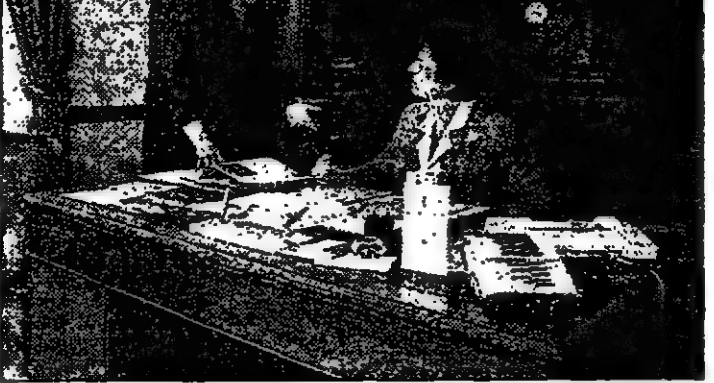
Mrs Longley is proud of the rising academic standards at Roedean, but is determined to hold on to the original aims of the school, founded 105 years ago by three formidable sisters, Dorothy, Penelope, and Millicent Lawrance. They believed that girls should be allowed to develop as individuals in their own right.

Their school was opened to break away from the traditional teaching of the social graces. "We wish, in the first place, to give physical education and outdoor exercises their due place in every girl's life," they said. They added that every girl should also be taught independence and self-reliance, with as "much liberty as can be granted with safety", and be given "sound, and careful, intellectual training".

The school still has a strong



Skills and self-reliance: a welding class (top) and head girl Candida Walton (above), in discussion with the headmistress



initial target of £1 million. The school has always been proud of its science teaching and many of its old girls go on to be doctors, often returning to their own countries after training. This very British school has many students from abroad, particularly Brunei and Malaysia, which gives it a strong international flavour.

Phyllis Lo, a 16-year-old from Malaysia, is having about half her fees paid by the school and is taking physics, chemistry, biology, and mathematics at A-level to get into medical school.

Gail Forester, from Cobham, Surrey, is a good example of Mrs Longley's proud boast that Roedean can provide practically any mix of subjects at A-level. She hopes to go to Bristol university to continue her studies in physics and Spanish.

Gail was also a keen supporter of the Young Enterprise scheme, in which groups of lower sixth formers set up their own companies. Gail's company, which had to be responsible for all its costs, including paying rent to the school, manufactured and sold cushions, making a profit of £350.

Mr Suraw will learn that there is more than hockey at today's Roedean. Teresa Brach, of the upper sixth, who is hoping to go to Cambridge to study English and the history of art, speaks for most pupils, when she says: "Once you have finished with Roedean you can cope with anything."

sporting tradition and Mrs Longley is particularly proud of the girls' successes in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme.

Hikers in the Pyrenees this summer may have stumbled across five teenage girls, sleeping in tents, plotting their route and cooking their meals, looking as if they were old hands at the outdoor life. In fact, it was the first important expedition for all of them and some doubted whether they would complete the seven-day walk.

They all did and won the scheme's gold award. "They were put under pressure, and girls, who might have seemed timid, emerged as quietly confident and self-aware, and you could see emerging leadership qualities," Mrs Longley says.

Schools such as Roedean are criticised for being elitist. Annual fees are £9,585. "We serve a need," Mrs Longley says. "There are parents who need a boarding school for their children. We provide for them and do it well."

Paintings of the three founding sisters (Penelope was one of Cambridge's first women science graduates), stare down from the balcony of the school hall on the 470 girls. The traditions of Roedean remain as strong as ever, but Mrs Longley's six years as head have seen some dramatic changes: new buildings, redevelopment of the old, the introduction of computers, and a

EDITED BY DAVID TYTLER

## Still funds left to peck

WIN SOME, lose some is the reaction of Dr John Bradfield, the senior bursar of Trinity College, Cambridge, to the collapse of the Polly Peck group, in which the college holds more than 300,000 shares.

Dr Bradfield says: "There is absolutely no suggestion that we will not have enough money to mend the library roof. This is not going to mean soup at high table, although it is extremely irritating. We are not upset: Trinity is a fairly wealthy institution."

Many universities have lost money on the stock market, but few have suffered as spectacularly as Trinity. The college's investment was worth almost £1.5 million last August.

## Physical exercise

ALEXANDER Barnett, aged 17, a former pupil of Manchester Grammar School, who won the International Physics Olympiad in July, has a new problem to solve: how to find room for a complete set of *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. The volumes were presented to him in recognition of his success against teams of pre-university students from 33 countries.

In the Olympiad, Alexander had to sit a five-hour theoretical paper and complete two practical experiments. The son of a physicist at Manchester university, he is now working for a year in industry before going to Cambridge university to read physics... naturally.

## Striking it rich

BUSINESS is business in the entrepreneurial world of higher education, as London university demonstrated last week when it let its main hall for a strike rally by polytechnic teachers. A university spokesman says: "We would exclude extremist organisations but we are fairly open with bookings. We have a fairly high-ranking Services' conference today, for example, so it is strikers one day and the strike force the next."

## Race for funds

STUDENTS of yacht design at the Southampton institute of higher education are trying to raise £500,000 to enter a team in next year's international racing season. The group, from the institute's degree course in

yacht and small craft design, includes students from France, Spain, Italy, Germany and Argentina, and would be the youngest to compete in the Admiral's Cup. David Johnston, one of those behind the project, says: "Sailing is a huge part of everyone's life on the course and we wanted a chance to sail together."

## Logo loophole

AN eagle-eyed academic has spotted flaws in Oxford university's new logo, which adorns the redesigned *University Gazette*. Brian Atkins, of St Cross College, has written to the journal to point out that the markings and width of the belt change beyond the buckle, and



that its fleur-de-lis would not fit through the buckle. He adds: "The little black tongue defies interpretation. Is it an attachment to the flared flap on the buckle, or a hole in the free end, cunningly devised to allow discreet adjustment of the trousering during high table dinners?"

## Practical pursuits

OWING to a transmission error in its article on these pages last week, it appeared that David Jewell, Master of Hallsbury and chairman of the headmasters' conference, was recommending Abbotsholme as a specialist music school. He was, in fact, referring to Wells Cathedral School and Chethams for music, and to Abbotsholme for those seeking practical pursuits.

## Socking it to 'em

MULTICULTURAL education has its own pitfalls. Children from Newstead Wood school for girls, in Orpington, London, on preparing for a visit to a local mosque, were reminded to bring packed lunch, scarf, clipboard, camera and socks without holes. There was one final instruction: "Behave."

JOHN O'LEARY

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The director will be required to direct and develop a new interdisciplinary centre which is being established under the aegis of the School of Geography, the Department of Zoology and the Oxford Forestry Institute.  
Applications (eight copies, or one from overseas candidates), naming three referees, should be received not later than 7 January 1991 by the Registrar, University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD, from whom further particulars may be obtained.  
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Further particulars may be obtained from Miss C. M. Gosham, Secretary, Board of the Faculty of Oriental Studies, The Oriental Institute, Pusey Lane, Oxford OX1 2LE. Telephone 0865-278286 Fax: 0865-278198  
to whom 10 copies of applications (one only from overseas overseas), naming three referees, should be sent not later than 15 January 1991.  
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# The woman who never says never

Elizabeth Dole, arguably the "better half" of America's highest political "power couple", has set so many successful public agendas that it seems churlish to accuse her of having a hidden one. But when she resigned last month as United States labor secretary to accept the non-political post of president of the American Red Cross — the first person to resign from the Bush administration — the buzz was that she was disassociating herself from the government in order to launch herself on a career as Senator and, eventually, President Dole.

The diplomatic Mrs Dole — who last resigned a cabinet position, as transportation secretary, to support the unsuccessful presidential campaign of her husband Robert Dole, the Republican leader in the Senate — does not deny such aspirations. "In Washington you learn never to say never," she says.

But she insists that nobody who knows her well would suspect her of ulterior motives. "This is the perfect move for me," she says. "I told the president when I was offered the job of labor secretary that I was focused on how we could help to mobilise the country into increasing its charitable giving."

But charity begins at home, and as Mrs Dole told President Reagan in her letter of resignation back in 1987, "public life is full of private choices". So Washington can be excused for wondering what the private motives behind such a public move may be.

Her new job carries an annual salary of \$185,000 (£94,000) compared with \$98,400 as labor secretary. But she will be commanding a comparatively paltry budget of about \$1 billion, compared with \$30 billion in her cabinet post — and she is a woman

**Has Elizabeth Dole resigned herself to a more powerful future, asks Victoria McKee**

who appreciates the power that a big budget brings.

Mrs Dole has sat at more policy tables than her husband has had hot dinners — at least made by her. (She says: "Bob asked if he'd still be eating Lean Cuisine TV dinners when I'm at the Red Cross and I told him, 'You sure will.'")

But is she abandoning the meaty policy table for a round of frothy charity dinners? Mrs Dole is indignant: "It's just a different policy table. The Red Cross is a Fortune 500 company and one of the foremost humanitarian organisations in the world. This was a now or never opportunity."

The post has been vacant, waiting for her, since the departure a year ago of Richard Schubert to work in a private consultancy. Mrs Dole's office says that she felt she should remain labor secretary for at least two years, to see some of her programmes through.

Aside from its founder, Clara Barton, a nurse during the American civil war, few American Red Cross presidents will be remembered in history books. But then, Mrs Dole has always broken moulds.

Unlike her most obvious rival for the honour of becoming America's first woman president, Dianne Feinstein, the Democratic gubernatorial candidate for California, who lost by a whisker in last week's elections, she has excited little controversy. She combines feminism with traditional femininity in a way that has made her America's perfect political sweetheart: a role

model to ambitious women and yet the model of the supportive Washington wife.

She laughs off the suggestion that she might run for political office, but has said she thinks America is more than ready for a woman leader, and that we will see one in her lifetime. "Things are happening, no question — but I have no plans to run."

Continuing to open doors for other women, she insists, is more of a priority. A strong belief in "mentoring" made her keep an open-door policy at the labor department and encourage other women to come to her for advice. She belongs to a networking group called Executive Women in Government, and enjoys pointing out that "most of the women who have broken through the barriers in the US have been from the Republican party, just as Britain's first woman prime minister is a Conservative."

She was in Britain a year ago as a speaker at the annual "Nancy Astor dinner" (this year's event is being held tomorrow), organised by the 300 Group, which is dedicated to encouraging more women into politics. She also spent



"Things are happening but I have no plans to run": Elizabeth Dole shakes hands with George Bush after resigning, but does she have presidential ambitions?

some time here in the late Fifties, as a student at Oxford university studying English history and government.

In her new job she could continue to spend more time in her native North Carolina, where it has been suggested she might run for senator or

governor. The senate seat of the Democrat Terry Sanford comes up for re-election in 1992 and that of the reactionary Republican Jesse Helms — for whom Mrs Dole campaigned — in 1996, so she could have a crack at either. (American senators come up

for election every six years, and each state has two, with staggered elections.) Some suggest she is aiming for the governorship, another stepping-stone to the presidency.

Mrs Dole says she is looking forward to a little time working at home, between leaving

the labor department on November 23 and joining the Red Cross in January. The best she and her husband usually manage is to keep Sundays clear to spend together, a sacred ritual.

Some people joke that, if Mrs Dole gained a senate seat,

she and her husband would be the only two senators sleeping with each other as far as is known. It has even been mounted that the Doles might make a winning presidential ticket, although the dispute would be over who got top billing.

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## Ready for a light bite?

**The Consumer's Association is urging restaurants to put customers on a diet**

HOW would you feel if your favourite restaurant decided to switch you to a healthier diet? Would you be pleased to eat fromage frais instead of cream, oil instead of butter, and finish off with profiteroles coated with carob and filled with yoghurt? Or would you take your custom elsewhere?

The Consumer's Association is trying to persuade caterers to change their cooking techniques, in the hope of lowering blood cholesterol levels. It is likely to prove an uphill task.

Prue Leith, who is tipped to be the next chair of the Restaurateurs Association of Great Britain, says: "I think a lot of restaurateurs are too busy to learn new techniques. They find it is easier to dismiss the interest in health as a fad, rather than look on it as an opportunity which might make them money."

perceived to be good for them. As a result certain "health by stealth" activities are taking place, such as using semi-skimmed rather than full cream milk in sauces, steaming vegetables, and cooking chips in polyunsaturated rather than animal fats.

Mrs Leith believes that people eating at the top end of the restaurant trade do not want to be preached at. "However, we are seeing a change in our customers' tastes," she says. "Ten years ago the best seller in Leith's restaurant was a whole duck, covered in almonds with orange and celery sauce. It had all the fat and skin on it, and it was chosen by about one customer in three. Now our best sellers are chicken poached in the pot, and grilled fish. When we catered for a banquet recently

Eating out is not an occasional treat. A Healthy Eating Initiative conference organised by the Consumer's Association last week revealed that we eat outside our homes astonishingly often, choosing foods which are astonishingly unhealthy. As one speaker put it: "We may start off with good intentions, choosing the melon and the lightly poached fish, but then the sweet trolley arrives with lashings of cream and all those good intentions go out of the window."

Men get about a third of their food energy from meals eaten outside the home, while women get about a quarter. In 1988 the catering sector served more than seven billion meals. Half were eaten in the commercial sector, restaurants and cafes. The remainder were consumed in workplace canteens, schools, hospitals, prisons and so on.

While our shopping baskets may suggest a switch to healthier eating habits — we buy more fish, bread and polyunsaturated fats, according to a Mintel survey this year — it seems we revert to our wicked ways when someone else is doing the cooking. As a result we are still eating diets composed of 40 per cent fat instead of the recommended 35 per cent, and the number of people who are so overweight that they risk early death is steadily increasing.

The need for change is undeniable, but caterers are nervous that the public will shy away from foods which are

we had a success with a filo pastry filled with Greek yoghurt instead of cream, and covered in fresh figs and blackberries."

Imposing healthy foods on the public is simply asking to be bombarded with complaints. Over their healthy conference lunch, prison catering officers told how they were threatened with "another Strangeways" when they tried to reduce the frequency of the inmates' chips. The chips were reinstated.

Healthy cooking is certainly not easy. Rob Silverstone, lecturer in food studies at Brighton polytechnic, set his students the challenge of creating an appetising, healthy dessert trolley. Attempts to steam a doughnut led to something tasting "like sweetened bread" and crème brûlée made with artificial sweetener failed to caramelise.

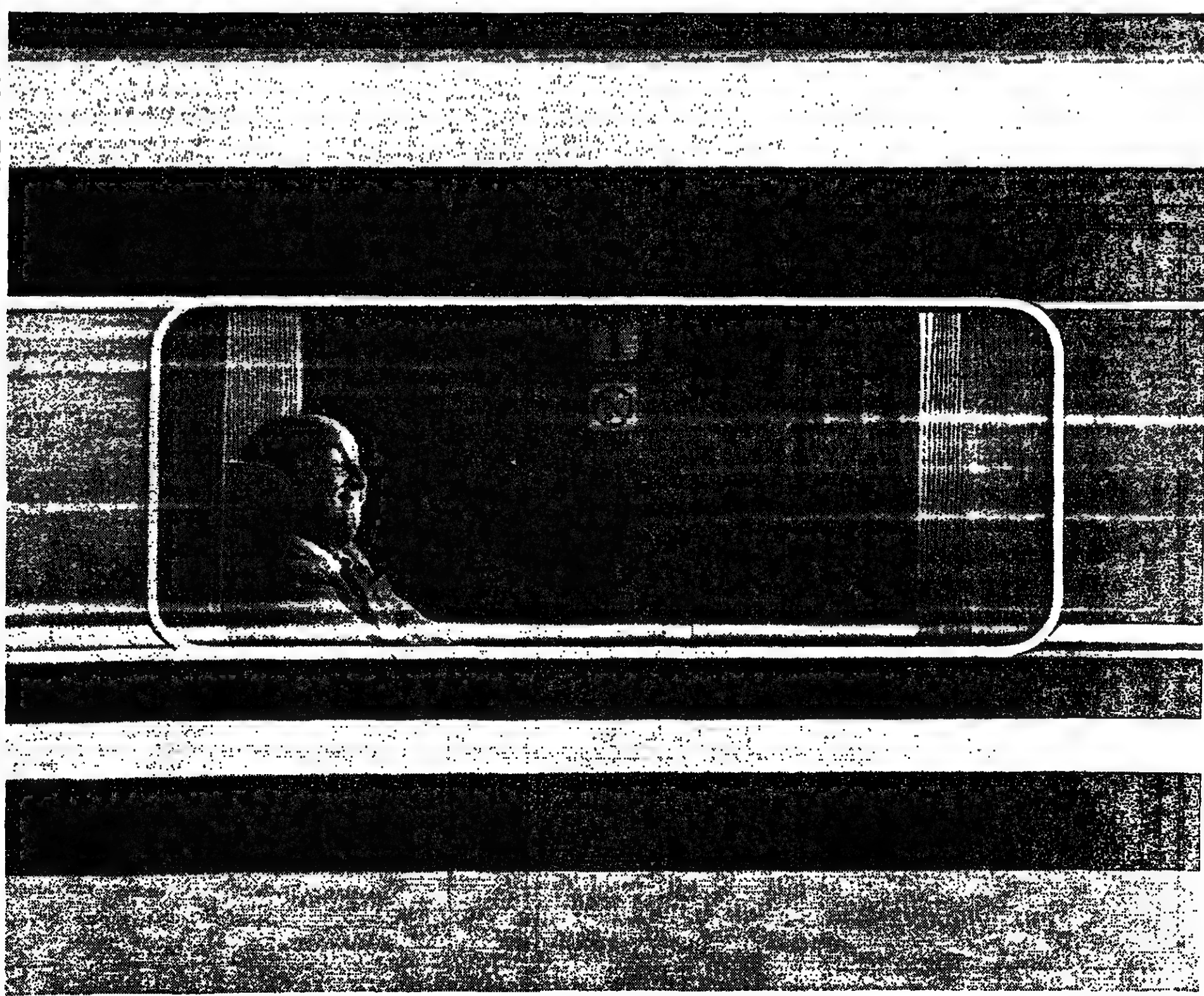
David Chambers, the chef who provided the healthy conference lunch at the Meridien Hotel, Piccadilly, admitted the fromage frais sauce had proved temperamental. "If it got too hot it separated, if it was too cool it separated, and if you gave it an angry look it separated."

He thought health-conscious customers were still in the minority of those using the hotel's restaurant, possibly 10 to 20 per cent of the total. Perhaps the others remember the horrors of nonville cuisine, when many of us left the lunch table poorer, wiser, and needing to pop into a cake shop.



**'Now our best sellers are chicken poached in the pot, and grilled fish'**  
Prue Leith

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ROCK

# A simple yearning to escape the myth

George Harrison is sitting on the visitor's side of a monstrous executive desk at his record company's West End offices. For a moment it seems as if he has turned up for a job interview.

"I don't have any qualifications," he banters. "I didn't get any GCSEs, not even English Language. The school let everybody take it that year except me. In the mocks I got 2 per cent, probably just 'cause I got my name right, at the top."

His manner is still shot through with the dry, Liverpudlian nonchalance that characterised those chaotic Beatles press conferences, but the tone is less cocky, more self-possessed. He looks younger than his 47 years, but there are crow's-feet round the eyes and strands of grey in his thick, immaculately ruffled bouffant. He wears the vaguely cowboy-inspired haute couture of the senior rock 'n' roll backwoodsman that he is: a long cream coat, multi-coloured waistcoat and white shirt neatly pinned at the throat.

Harrison has temporarily broken cover to give a promotional push to the second *Traveling Wilburys* album, a curiously titled *Volume Three*. The joke is typical of a project that began as the most casual of liaisons among a group of musicians who had emerged on the far side of stardom craving nothing more than a back-to-basics, no-strings-attached knees-up, a reminder of the way it used to be in the good old days.

The story of how Bob Dylan, Roy Orbison, Tom Petty, Jeff Lynne and George Harrison convened in Dylan's garage in 1988 to knock out a B-side for Harrison's forthcoming single "When We Were Fab" has since passed into rock folklore. The album which the five ended up putting out under the collective pseudonym of *Traveling Wilburys*—a simulacrum of complications and damping any possibility of a "supergroup" hype—was a huge success, particularly in America.

But what many assumed was a

Following the release of a second album by *Traveling Wilburys*, George Harrison tells David Sinclair why he is going back to basics

one-off exercise is turning into a habit. "With the first album, we were all a bit nervous of each other. But this time no one even thought about it. We rented a house in LA. I was just hanging around the first morning and all of a sudden I heard acoustic guitars start up. I went down and Jeff and Tom were there. I picked up a guitar. Bob walked in. 'Hello, mate how are yer?' Within an hour we'd got the first song, 'Inside Out'. We did two that day. We just banged 'em out like that Monday to Friday and we had 10 songs by the end of it."

Lyrics were added later, some of them plain daff like the dance step instructions of "Wilbury Twist" and others with a more serious angle. Inspiration for the ecologically concerned "The Devil's Been Busy" came to Harrison when he recalled a story about golf courses. "In order to keep them nice and smooth and free of weeds, they put so much toxic chemicals on them that in certain places it's seeping through into the water supply. In England there was a golfer who died and now they have a sign on the golf course: 'Do not lick your balls', 'cause that's how he died.'"

Evidently the lightness of mood was not affected by the absence of Lefty Wilbury (Roy Orbison) who died of a heart attack not long after the release of *Volume One*. "If he'd have died while we were actually making the record, I imagine it would have been a bit different, but it's been two years. And Roy, he was full of fun, whatever his image might have been. He wouldn't have wanted anyone mourning too much."

For Harrison it is clearly a great relief to have found such a partnership of (relative) equals to which he can repair. After an early unleashing of the creativity which had been stifled over the years in the presence of Lennon and McCartney, "the usual thing was that we'd do 14 of their tunes

and then they'd condescend to listen to one of mine"—his post-Beatles solo career proceeded rather fitfully through the latter part of the Seventies, and virtually ground to a halt after his 1982 album *Gone With a Trumpet* proved a commercial flop. Despite making a spectacular comeback with *Cloud Nine* in 1987, he remains an ensemble player at heart.

"My ideal situation would be to play in a proper driving big band, like the old Cab Calloway Band. I'd love to play somewhere that people can go along, maybe dance a bit or whatever, but where the emphasis is on enjoying the music rather than being in awe of some superstar mob on stage. I'd like to play the Holiday Inn in some out of the way place. Somewhere where your myth and your past is not attached to what you're doing now. Like we did before we were famous. I'd tour again if it wasn't such a big deal. But nowadays it's like the third world war every time you go on the road."

Thoughts turn to Paul McCartney's recent global offensive, during which he turned himself into the self-appointed torch-bearer of the Beatles' legacy. Harrison was in Los Angeles when his former colleague's circus passed through, but he was not moved to go and see the show. "I saw the Beatles. Why would I want to go and see a man pretending to be the Beatles? I suppose somebody's got to do it. I'm just glad it's not me."

With so much of his life history irretrievably part of the public domain, he is loath to dwell on the past and insists that for him the clamour surrounding what would have been John Lennon's 50th birthday last October is at best irrelevant.

"I just had a bloke from Swedish television harping on forever about John," he says

wearily. "It's nice that we remember people that we've loved, but you can do that any day of the week. It doesn't have to be an anniversary. But I suppose people need to do it, like putting wreaths on soldiers' graves each year. I don't personally need it."

Has he taken any personal security measures in the aftermath of Lennon's assassination? "I just got an extra roll of barbed wire round the fence at home. It certainly makes me not want to hang around in doorways. But everybody has their own karma, their own little trip or destiny, which they create, and to go worrying about what happens to other people... it can be such a negative, downward spiral."

Lately Harrison has been involved with his wife's work on behalf of the Romanian Angel Appeal, a charity organised to relieve the plight of orphans in Romania, which has raised £1 million following a six-week campaign in the *Daily Mail*. As long ago as 1971 Harrison was the first star to recognise the fundraising potential of rock music when he staged two concerts at Madison Square Gardens to aid the victims of famine and war in Bangladesh. Harrison reports that the most recent certified accounts show \$14 million (£7 million) donated to Unicef from the project. The live album of the concerts has since been deleted, but Harrison has been busy re-editing the recordings for transfer to CD and expects to see it back in the shops soon.

Between us on the desk is a copy of a new biography of Harrison, called *The Quiet One*, by Alan Clayson. It is wrapped in a plain white cover. Harrison has not read it. "This Italian guy called Red Ronnie just gave it to me," he says picking it up gingerly. "I don't know who this writer is. All he knows about me is what he's read in the papers or heard in interviews. He doesn't know me. There was another one last year. God knows why these people bother to make some money. I suppose, because it's not important to history to have a stranger's ver-



Harrison: "I'd tour again if it wasn't such a big deal"

sion of what my life's supposed to be. There have been far too many Beatles books and it's depressing when you read a load of nasty things; and even if you read about good things, it doesn't serve any purpose. I expect I'll just leave it lying around the house and then

my wife can read about all the extra-marital affairs I'm supposed to have had, and all the drugs I'm supposed to have taken."

*Volume Three* in *Traveling Wilburys* is released on Warner Bros (WX 384)

BRIEFING

## Who pulls the strings?

PUPPETRY is to be the subject of a new enquiry set up and funded by the Gulbenkian Foundation. It will examine the art, training and reimbursement of puppeteers in Britain and Ireland, from those working Punch and Judy in seaside booths to the high-powered operators pulling the strings on *The Muppet Show* and *Spatial Image*. According to the Gulbenkian Foundation, British and Irish puppeteers are "looking enviously towards Europe where their profession is honoured and rewarded". The writer and producer Jocelyn Stevenson will lead the enquiry, which is inviting evidence from the profession and beyond. (Gulbenkian Foundation, 98 Portland place, London W1)

## Stepping out

ALL kinds of unexpected cultural happenings are possible in the opening up of the Soviet Union. Last month, Siberia was host to the second Asian Music Festival, a gathering which revealed a number of "potentially" fascinating trends in central Asian rock. Shamanism and Ghengis Khan have, it appears, both returned to the agenda as suitable subjects for a new democratic age of popular music. First sight of this renaissance of the steppes will be available at the Purcell Room on the South Bank tonight and tomorrow, when Sayrta Namchik will be performing her unusual blend of free improvisation and Mongolian vocal techniques as part of the Voice Over Festival.

## Last chance

RICH late-Romantic harmonies and a penetrating post-Freudian exploration of the Faustian struggle between good and evil together make Busoni's *Doctor Faustus*, one of the most remarkable operas of the 20th century. Alan Ople (as Faustus) and Graham Clark (as Mephistopheles) are both in superb form in this tale of the doctor of science who sells his soul to the Devil in exchange for knowledge. David Pountney's production for the ENO (071-836 3161), which can be seen tonight and on Thursday, is conducted by the Busoni scholar who has completed the score. Antony Beaumont.



Me and My Girl: Robert Lindsay and Emma Thompson in London

With *Buddy and Shadowlands* now opening on Broadway and *The Mystery of Irma Vep* and *Other People's Money* newly installed here, New York and London increasingly resemble theatrical mirror images of one another. What a bore, transatlantic travellers may complain, to travel from one city to the next, only to find the same shows. In truth, whatever the situation says about producers' timidity, the phenomenon allows for some fascinating comparisons of theatregoing.

Consider, for example, Peter Shaffer's *Letice and Lovage*, which finishes its New York engagement on December 23. On paper, the show that opened at the Ethel Barrymore Theatre last March seemed virtually identical to the production that ran for more than two years in the West End, with the same director (Michael Blakemore), designer (Alan Tags), and leading ladies (Maggie Smith and Margaret Tyacke). Why, then, should a visitor from London bother visiting such a known commodity? The answer is that on Broadway, for the first time since *Night and Day* in 1979, Maggie Smith found herself acting to a public that could not get enough of her inimitable technique—a flicked wrist here, a protracted syllable there. As the long-absent star, she devoted great attention to ensuring that New York got the most carefully considered *Letice* possible. Sporting extravagant costumes and a new curly wig, the spinster Letice Douffet genuinely

## Taking a sea change

Matt Wolf on what happens to plays when they transfer across the Atlantic

looked like a personification of technicolour and a grey world. Smith could set about the role confident that, to New Yorkers, she communicated in shorthand what Peter Shaffer's play had written large: this woman is a strong force. The result, paradoxically, was to make more real for Broadway what in London often seemed like a camp charade.

An earlier example was *Me and My Girl*, which successfully transferred to Broadway in August 1986, despite being a dated 1930s musical about the class system which received an unglamorous production in London. But again, transatlantic alchemy, buttressed by money, had a transforming effect. What in London might be charitably described as a grandiose end-of-pier entertainment played in New York with all the panache that a budget of millions can buy. On home turf, Robert Lindsay was as engaging as he could be, given the rather impoverished nobility of his surroundings. In New York, he looked ready to high-kick his way through the walls of the Marriott Marquis Theatre.

The scenario is not always so happy. Few New York evenings in recent years were as dispiriting as the Broadway bow of *Wild Honey* in December 1986, which should, by rights, have been a foolproof success. It reunited for America the star and director—lan

McKellen and Christopher Morahan—who had made Michael Frayn's rewrite of Anton Chekhov such a National Theatre revelation. But someone had clearly decided that New Yorkers would not accept the complex tone of the work—a piece pitched at that precise midpoint between myth and tragedy—as performed on the South Bank. The result was a bizarrely vulgar romp that seemed to situate Ray Cooney-style high jinks in Russia. When the play closed after 28 performances, its creative team was quick to blame the critics, never acknowledging the more pressing fact that audiences can tell when they are an object of condescension.

The comparisons are as intriguing made the other way. Last March, one could admire the integrity of Steven Pimlott's National Theatre production of Stephen Sondheim's *Sunday in the Park with George* even as one lamented the absence of that ingredient—passion—so essential to its Broadway success. The current American import, *Other People's Money*, seems even flimsier in the West End than it did off-Broadway last January. Not only does Jerry Stiller's play now sound positively ancient in its pseudo-Ivan Bosky expressions of venality, but its cast, headed by Martin Shaw and Maria Aitken, could not seem more remote from the material at hand.

By contrast, a far better American play on a similar topic—David Mamet's *Litvinsky's Glen Ross*—received a near-definitive staging in its world premiere production at the National in 1983. As directed by Bill Bryden, the British ensemble acted Mamet's scheming Chicagoans with a psychological verisimilitude that went way beyond proper accents. Imagine one's surprise encountering the same play on Broadway the following spring, only to discover an emotional inauthenticity—a refusal to be abrasive—in the American company that never once bested its British counterparts.

## Too polite by half

THE *Inside Story* special on BBC 1 (Friday), "November Days", was apt to grieve nervously at recent history, in this case the crumbling of the Berlin Wall. For 130 minutes Marcel Ophüls rambled around Europe with a camera crew locating the first successful climbers of the wall and wondering what had happened to them on the other side. Along the way he conjured up old film clips, quoted Lewis Carroll and allowed Marceline Dietrich to sing "September Song" over newsreel footage of Erich Honecker, the former East German leader, greeting Mikhail Gorbachev.

The result was a 20th-century European melody in which nothing much happened very slowly, because Ophüls' editing had all the discipline and clarity of a sponge. One climber had only to mention a vague liking for John Wayne for the screen to fill with old Hollywood westerns, and an impressionist, over-long but sometimes evocative collage, finally disintegrated through inertia.

One of the oldest problems besetting movie programmes on television, as against theatre or book shows, has always been the clip and location factor. Whereas programme-makers are now allowed, for such programmes as *01*, to rubbish rotten plays on the pavement outside theatres on first nights even before members of the cast have had time to remove their makeup, a film industry still steeped in old Hollywood lore is much more chary. Why should producers furnish free movie clips, or allow television crews onto their expensive locations, if the result is to be a hostile piece suggesting that the finished film is likely to be well worth avoiding? Barry Norman, grappling with this problem for BBC 1 over the last decade, has reduced criticism to a fine facial art: the quiver of an

eyebrow, the delivery tone of an apparently neutral plot synopsis, tell viewers all they need to know about whether or not to listen to their nearest cinema. But a programme with a more ambitious brief, such as *Moving Pictures* (BBC 2 Saturday), is apparently unable to risk a piece to camera by a critic simply telling us, as many Americans do, that certain movies are just terrible. As I once discovered to my cost, when hosting a BBC 2 *Film Night*, Wardour Street still withdraws clips at the drop of an insult, and a film programme with no films in it is apt to look a little barren.

Not surprisingly, therefore, *Moving Pictures* is not getting any better at grabbing opportunities: last week's London Film Festival premiere of *Texasville* would have been the natural peg for a long hard-look at Peter Bogdanovich and what seems to have gone wrong with a once-golden career. But fleeting references to a "difficult" private life and the inaccurate opening statement that he was once America's leading film critic (which would have come as news to Pauline Kael or Andrew Sarris), set all too quickly the tone for an uncritical trailer for the new film—one which even had to fall back on clips from its source. *The Last Picture Show*, despite the fact that this was being shown in its entirety a few minutes later.

The pseudonym of such location film reports was, however, wonderfully mocked by an old interview in which Bogdanovich at his most pretentious asked John Ford how he had managed to shoot some especially seminal sequence for one of his westerns. There was a pause while Ford removed the cigar from his mouth and stared bleakly at his questioner. "With a camera," he then replied.

SHERIDAN MORLEY

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**Pick of the Week**

**CHRISTIE'S**

THIS triumphant portrait was great critical acclaim for Benjamin West at the Society of Artists in 1764. It depicts General Robert Monckton, who, as Wolfe's Second-in-Command, played an important part in the taking of Quebec in 1759. The General's commanding pose is based on the Apollo Belvedere and reflects the influence of Reynolds, while another of his military victories—the capture of Fort Royal in Martinique—is shown in the background. This major historical work is included in the sale of Important British Pictures at Christie's, King Street on Friday, 16 November at 11.00 a.m.

For further information on this and sales in the next week, please telephone Christie's 24-hour Auction Information Service on (071) 839 9060.

Benjamin West, P.R.A. Portrait of General Robert Monckton. Circa 1764. Oil on canvas. 94 1/2 x 68 1/2 in. Estimate £1,000,000-1,500,000

8 King Street, London SW1  
85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7  
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**BBC 1**

6.00 *Crest*  
6.30 *BBC Breakfast News* with Nicholas Witchell and Jill Dando  
8.50 *Daytime UK* Alan Titchmarsh and Judi Spiers in Birmingham and Adrian Mills in Manchester introduce the day's offerings  
9.00 *News*, regional news and weather  
9.05 *Sirius* Cilla's show hosted by Andy Craig 8.25 *Dish of the Day* Ruth Mott with cookery ideas  
9.30 *People Today* Adrian Mills and Judi Jones present the real lives magazine with a phone-in for viewers' questions tackled by Ronke Phillips. Plus Lisa Aiken on flower arranging  
10.00 *News*, regional news and weather  
10.05 *Children's BBC* introduced by Simon Pegg begin with Playdays  
10.25 *Pingu* A new animated adventure series about a clumsy penguin  
10.35 *People Today* includes a phone-in  
11.00 *News*, regional news and weather  
11.05 *Kitty* Robi Kitty-Sik chairs a discussion on law and order 11.45 *Before Noon* Alan Titchmarsh and Judi Spiers have today's winner of the *Spinners* game show  
12.00 *News*, regional news and weather  
12.05 *After Noon* Antiques Roadshow Gems introduced by Hugh Scully  
12.20 *Scene Today* Alan Titchmarsh and Judi Spiers present more entertainment from Pacifica Mills 12.55 *Regional news and weather*

**BBC 2**

6.00 *News*  
6.15 *Westminster* The latest news from Parliament  
8.50 *Daytime on Two* Waste disposal 8.55 The story of David and Saul 9.15 *For people with learning difficulties* 9.40 *Metre investigations* 10.00 *The story of The Monkeys and the Moon* 10.18 *Music for dancing* 10.40 *Series on the Christian faith* 11.00 *Using a compass* 11.22 *A science drama* for the young 11.35 *How to make a solid fuel rocket* 11.55 *The volcanic landscape* 12.15 *The story of medicine* 12.35 *The first of three programmes about the law* 1.00 *Bridges and how they are constructed* 1.20 *Pegson Street* 1.40 *Can modern farming methods be improved?* 2.00 *News and weather* followed by *Storytime* (r) 2.15 *Songs of Praise* for Remembrance (r). (Crest) 2.55 *Behind the Screen* Philip Schofield talks to Fiona Adams about his new series, *School's Out*  
3.00 *News and weather* followed by *The Home Front* Streets in the Sky. Third in the series about housing seen Patrick Nutter examining the difficulties of re-housing people after the second world war (r). (Crest) 3.45 *A Day in the Life of an airline pilot* With Captain Steve Turner from Stansted Airport (r) 3.50 *News*, regional news and weather  
4.00 *Call My Bluff* Robert Robinson presides over the witty word game with regular team captains Frank Muir and Arthur Marshall. The other contestants are Angela Gordon, Sarah Sachs, Eve Matheson and Simon Williams (r)  
4.30 *Behind the Headlines* Jane Corbin and her guests discuss the morality of seeking a military solution to the situation in the Gulf  
5.00 *Holiday Outings* David Jessel and his family explore Venice and Lido de Jesolo

1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Philip Hayton, Weather  
1.30 *Neighbours* (Crest) 1.50 *Going for Gold* Henry Kelly introduces the multi-national quiz in which contestants compete for a safari in Kenya  
2.15 *The Six Million Dollar Man* goes in search of a stolen statue. Starring Lee Majors 3.00 *Hudson and Hells* Opportunity Knocks winner Mark Raftery joins the two cooks in a new series to see how to make lamb curry 3.25 *Dish of the Day* Comedy series set in an American high school  
3.50 *Fireman Sam* narrated by John Alderton (r) 4.00 *A Bear Behind* Songs and poems with Bill Willis and Lindsey Coulson 4.10 *The New York Bear Show* Carlton (r) 4.25 *Happy Families* New series based on the books by Alan Ahlberg 4.35 *Thundercats*  
5.00 *Newsround* with Roger Finn and Juliet Morris 5.05 *Police Northern* (Crest) 5.35 *Neighbours* (r) (Crest) *Northern* 5.40 *Inside Uster*  
6.00 *Six O'Clock News* with Peter Sissons and Mimi Stuart, Weather  
6.30 *Regional News Magazines*  
7.00 *Wogan* with Russ Abbot, Bella Barton and Linda Martin  
7.30 *Watchdog* Lynn Fauda Wood investigates a company which sells fire extinguishers and smoke detectors on the doorstep and there is a report on yesterday's national car seat check, more than 40 sites throughout Britain trading standards officers and

5.05 *Film: Shockproof* (1949, b/w) starring Cornel Wilde and Patricia Knight. Well-made and acted film noir about a parole officer whose love affair with one of his parolees threatens to destroy him. Directed by Douglas Sirk  
6.25 *DEF 1* begins with *Dance Energy*. Live magazine programme focusing on the UK dance scene 7.05 *News* *Attitude*. American comedy about two sisters who run a beauty salon  
7.30 *Open Space: Wishing You Were Here* (r) (Crest) Members of the British black community take over the public access slot to complain of discrimination over visits by relatives and friends from the Caribbean. They contrast the number of black people refused entry to Britain and with the treatment of citizens from the white Commonwealth. Last year one in 40 Jamaicans was turned away, one in 5,000 Canadians. The statistics are backed by case histories. Lloyd, a Jamaican, came to Britain to be reunited with his mother. He was the first time in nearly 30 years. The immigration officer said he had not brought enough clothes, proving that he intended to work here. The charges are eloquently presented but the Home Office says the increase in refusal rates has nothing to do with race and merely reflects the judgment of immigration officers on who is and who is not a genuine visitor. (Crest) *Wishes: Tales of Wales*

Automobile Association engineers inspected child car seats after claims that most might be unsafe  
8.00 *Telly Addicts*. Two more families are tested on their knowledge of television programmes  
8.30 *Keeping Up Appearances*. Comedy from the last of the *Summer Hill* stable with Patricia Routledge in fine form as a prissy middle-aged woman with delusions of grandeur (Crest) *9.00 Nine O'Clock News* with Mary Lewis. Regional news and weather  
9.30 *Panorama: Mr Major's Medicine*. What will be the medium-term effect of ERM entry on jobs and wages in Britain? Employment Secretary Michael Howard and his Labour shadow Tony Blair give their views on what faces Britain's workers. With reports from companies in Surrey, Mansfield and County Durham  
10.10 *Mancuso FBI*. Hard-bitten government agent Mancuso suspects foreign revolutionaries when an attempt is made on the life of a Middle-Eastern politician 1.50 *A Country Practice*. Australian soap  
10.55 *Shirley Maclaine*. The Variety Club pays tribute to Hollywood all-rounder Shirley Maclaine - actress, singer, dancer and TV star  
11.20 *Help Your Child with Reading*. The last in the series  
11.40 *Advice Shop*. The consumer guide to welfare services looks at the resettlement of servicemen into civilian life (r)  
12.00 *Weather*

8.00 *Abroad in Britain: House Ahoy!* (Crest) *CHOICE*: *House Ahoy!* is a gentle comedy (double-breasted suit and dark glasses) and does a hatch job on the yachting folk of the Solent. Maclaine was an admirer of the portly party, the late Ian Hain, and host of the *House Ahoy!* retrospective. But while Maclaine's breathless style had the great virtue of spontaneity, Maclaine goes for elaborately worked-out phrases which could not have come to him on the spot at the moment. At times he is a little heavily scripted and the words clog up the images. It is difficult to digest a phrase such as: "There is a school of iconography based in nautical utility." He is most effective pointing out on people and institutions he disdains. In this case the emblem of the sailing fraternity. Here the invective is at its richest, as when he talks about "creeps with motor boaters" and compares a marina to a superior caravan park. (Crest) 8.30 *Nature*. Triloma Jackson reports on the difficulties being faced by the United States and the Soviet Union in their attempts to reduce their formidable nuclear and chemical arsenals. Introduced by Michael Buerk. (Crest) 9.00 *Film: Anne's Coming Out* (1984). A moving American film, based on fact, about the efforts of a therapist (Angela Punch McGregor) determined to rescue the life of a young cerebral palsy victim. Anne (The Archon) is 13 years old and so severely handicapped that she has been consigned to spend the rest of her life in a mental hospital. A vegetable. But Jackson is convinced that Anne has hidden intelligence. Directed by Gil Brealey. (Crest) 10.30 *Newswright* presented by Jeremy Paxman  
11.15 *The Late Show*. Arts and media magazine  
11.55 *Weekend Update* with John Lloyd  
12.00 *Behind the Headlines*. See 4.30. Ends at 12.35am

**ITV LONDON**

8.00 *TV-am*  
8.05 *Keynotes*. Alastair Dival hosts the musical quiz game 9.55 *Thames News* and weather  
10.00 *The Time*. The Place. Mike Scott introduces a special edition of the topical discussion show that links up live with the citizens of Moscow to talk about events that have taken place behind the Iron Curtain  
10.40 *This Morning*. Family-orientated magazine show presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley  
12.05 *Rosie and Jim*. Educational fun for the very young 12.25 *Home and Away*. Australian soap about a couple and their families 12.55 *Thames News* and weather  
1.00 *News at One* with John Suchet. Weather  
1.20 *Thames Help*. Jackie Stowell and John Murray preview the week's editions of *Thames Help* which will be about events that have taken place in the last 24 hours  
2.20 *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*. A murder case with a difference. A police officer is faced with the death of a businessman at the hands of one of his wives and personalities  
2.50 *Talkabout*. Andrew O'Connor presents the fast-talking quiz for quick-thinking couples  
3.15 *News headlines* 3.25 *Thames News* headlines 3.25 *Fantasia*. Broomfield soap featuring families in Australia and the north of England  
3.55 *Bugs Bunny and Friends* (r) 4.20 *The Scooby Show* with Matthew Corbett  
4.45 *Count Duckula*. Cartoon series  
5.00 *Who's the Boss?* American sitcom  
5.40 *News at Five* Fone Armstrong. Weather

**CHANNEL 4**

6.00 *The Art of Landscape*. Film of the natural world accompanied by relaxing music  
6.30 *The Channel Four Daily* 9.25 *School*  
12.00 *Portrait Silence*. This second in the Spanish-made documentary series on animal behaviour focuses on animals at birth (r)  
12.30 *Business Daily*  
1.00 *Sesame Street*. Educational fun for pre-school children  
2.00 *Film: Front Page Story* (1933, b/w) starring Jack Hawkins, Elizabeth Allen and Derek Farr. A day in the life of a Fleet Street newspaper editor, in the course of which he is torn between several big stories while his marriage gradually deteriorates. A vivid and intriguing drama which benefits from a script that conveys both pathos and humour and skilful acting. Directed by Roy Lewis  
3.50 *Musical Lament*. Cartoon  
4.00 *Vintage*. In part eight of his series tracing the history of wine Hugh Johnson focuses on port and the wines of Madeira (r)  
4.30 *Fifteen-to-One*. Fast-moving quiz presented by William G. Stewart  
5.00 *The Late Late Show*. The topical and lively music and chat show from Dublin hosted by Gay Byrne  
6.00 *Roseanne*. Roseanne and husband Dan continue their wise-cracking way through the trials and tribulations of life. Dan's school reunion puts a strain on his relationship with Roseanne (r)  
6.30 *Tonight with Jonathan Ross*. The guests are actor and director Dennis Hopper and, with a song, Bobby Valentino

5.55 *Thames Help* with details of the DHSS's retirement pension forecast  
6.00 *Home And Away* (r)  
6.30 *Thames News* and weather  
7.00 *The Krypton Factor*. Gordon Burns with another round of the brain and brawn competition (Oracle)  
7.30 *Coronation Street*. The Rovers regulars return. (Oracle)

7.00 *Channel 4 News* with Jon Snow and Zohar Bazzani  
7.50 *Comment* followed by *Weather*  
8.00 *Brookside*. True-to-life Liverpool soap. (Teletext)  
8.00 *My Two Dads*. American sitcom with a story that makes Doozie Howser sound believable - about a girl and the two men who agree to raise her because either could be her father  
9.00 *And The Winner Takes Tumble*. Down: Changing the Guard. *CHOICE*: Continuing the series of personal reports from eastern Europe, Jan Dobrovsky, journalist and former underground activist, argues that Czechoslovakia's democratic state is under threat from remnants of the secret police, the StB. Set up after the communists came to power in 1948, the StB became one of the most repressive secret police organisations in eastern Europe. With his father a signatory of Charter 77, Dobrovsky himself came under surveillance and his activities were put on secret file. He argues that the events of November last year have not eradicated the old guard and he reports the claim that former KGB officers are being used by the Soviet KGB to undermine the democratic system. He accuses the government of being less than zealous in putting members of the StB on trial and suggests that the country's new, neutral, police force is already being infiltrated. (Teletext)  
10.00 *Film: Zorba the Greek* (1964, b/w) starring Anthony Quinn, Alan Bates, Lila Kedrova and Irene Papas. An Englishman who comes to Crete to reopen a family mine left to him by his father finds himself converted to the ways and attitudes of Zorba, a man who is a mixture of the Falstaffian and Bacchanalian. Adapted from Nikos Kazantzakis's novel, this has been unfairly dubbed as the "film that launched the package tour". The plot tends to meander and the melodrama can become excessive, but the film is both touching and memorable. Quinn was Oscar-nominated for his performance, and Kedrova won one for hers. The score by Mikis Theodorakis became a huge international success. Directed by Michael Cacoyannis  
12.40am *Psychiatrists after Freud*. The concluding programme in a trilogy concerning French psychoanalyst and philosopher Jacques Lacan. It is taken from an interview he gave on French television in which he discussed his "return to Freud" and why he believed the practice of psychoanalysis has relevance for all human subjects. (With English subtitles)  
1.40 *Fortunata e Jacinta*. The concluding episode of the Spanish drama (r). Ends at 2.40

decedly higher up the social scale. The situation is of two different people brought together by coincidence. Max (Anne Bancroft) is a faded Hollywood actress who makes an unlikely alliance with Freddie (Charlotte Coleman), a young woman with a faded love affair and a crippling overcast 8.30 *World in Action*. An investigation into the 1988 Piper Alpha disaster in which 167 people died  
9.00 *Film: Original Sin* (1989). Powerful made-for-television melodrama starring Cherron Heston, Ann Jillian, Sharon and John Richards are shocked and upset when their only child is snatched, but events lead Sharon to discover that her father-in-law is not all that he seems and could be involved in her son's kidnapping. Directed by Ron Setoff. Concludes after the news  
10.00 *News at Ten* with Alastair Burnet and Julie Somerville. Weather 10.30 *Thames News* and weather  
10.40 *Film: Original Sin* continued  
11.30 *Seconds Out*. Tony Francis presents another lively boxing bill, this week from Norwich Ladies' Club  
12.25am *Sportsworld Extra*. Includes highlights of the final of the Best Pepsi Indoor Challenge from London's Wembley Arena  
1.25 *Film: They Came to Rob Las Vegas* (1959) starring Gary Lockwood, Jack Palance, Lee J. Cobb and Elyse Sommer. A Las Vegas casino dealer dreams of the "perfect crime" in which he and his cohorts would hijack a security truck in the Nevada desert. A film that parades itself as pure escapism and does not disappoint. Directed by Anthony Lewis  
4.00 *American College Football*. Arkansas play Texas  
5.00 *ITN Morning News* with Phil Romen. Ends at 6.00

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1.40 *Fortunata e Jacinta*. The concluding episode of the Spanish drama (r). Ends at 2.40

**ITV VARIATIONS**

**ANGLOIA**  
As London except: 1.20pm-1.50 *Gardens For All* 2.20-2.50 *Short Story Theatre* Who Wins in 1930? 3.30-4.00 *Evening Skating* 4.30-5.00 *Evening Skating* 5.30-6.00 *Angels News* 6.30-7.00 *The Pigeon* 7.30-8.00 *The TV Chart* show 4.00-6.00 *TV Chart*

**BORDER**  
As London except: 1.20pm-1.50 *The Story* 1.50-2.20 *Home And Away* 2.20-2.50 *Home And Away* 2.50-3.20 *Home And Away* 3.20-3.50 *Home And Away* 3.50-4.00 *Home And Away* 4.00-4.30 *Home And Away* 4.30-5.00 *Home And Away* 5.00-5.30 *Home And Away* 5.30-6.00 *Home And Away* 6.00-6.30 *Home And Away* 6.30-7.00 *Home And Away* 7.00-7.30 *Home And Away* 7.30-8.00 *Home And Away* 8.00-8.30 *Home And Away* 8.30-9.00 *Home And Away* 9.00-9.30 *Home And Away* 9.30-10.00 *Home And Away* 10.00-10.30 *Home And Away* 10.30-11.00 *Home And Away* 11.00-11.30 *Home And Away* 11.30-12.00 *Home And Away* 12.00-12.30 *Home And Away* 12.30-1.00 *Home And Away* 1.00-1.30 *Home And Away* 1.30-2.00 *Home And Away* 2.00-2.30 *Home And Away* 2.30-3.00 *Home And Away* 3.00-3.30 *Home And Away* 3.30-4.00 *Home And Away* 4.00-4.30 *Home And Away* 4.30-5.00 *Home And Away* 5.00-5.30 *Home And Away* 5.30-6.00 *Home And Away* 6.00-6.30 *Home And Away* 6.30-7.00 *Home And Away* 7.00-7.30 *Home And Away* 7.30-8.00 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BUSINESS AND FINANCE 25-29  
SPORT 31-36  
WEEKEND MONEY 44-44

### Spurs to publish circular today

**DIRECTORS** of Tottenham Hotspur will today publish details of the club chairman Irving Scholar's secret negotiations with Robert Maxwell, the publisher, last summer in a circular to shareholders.

Mr Scholar, the company's largest single shareholder, has been strongly criticised for some of his actions, which were kept hidden from other members of the board.

Publication of the circular will not, however, lead to a re-listing of Spurs shares, suspended at 91p last month. The International Stock Exchange will explain that the circular does not include crucial information such as details of the company's working capital. Another circular, to include the results for the year ended last May, is likely to be requested before shareholders meet to consider the company's refinancing proposals.

The exchange's statement is also likely to make its own comment on the circular, which is based on a report compiled by the Ashurst Morris Crisp, the solicitor.

### British Telecom in firing line

Measures aimed at breaking British Telecom's stranglehold on the UK telecommunications industry have been prepared by the Department of Trade and Industry. The department refused to confirm reports that details would be unveiled tomorrow.

At the heart of the consultative paper, *Choice and Competition in the Nineties*, will be a proposal for "equal access", which would allow telephone users wider choice in the network through which their calls are routed.

### Statement on Halpern likely

Confirmation that Sir Ralph Halpern will step down from his post as chairman of the Group is expected on Thursday when the company publishes its annual results. Sir Ralph is thought to have agreed to stand aside at a directors' meeting last Friday.

Burton is forecast to show a fall in pre-tax profits from £224 million to about £140 million. Reporting, page 28

### Fleming starts Italian fund

Robert Fleming, the merchant bank, has launched a fund worth 80 billion lire (£36 million) with Pirelli, the Italian industrial group, to make acquisitions in Italy for a group of 20 international investors.

### Equitalia, the fund, is a combination of a holding company and an investment fund and is intended to offer access to the Italian smaller company sector.

### Babcock order

Babcock International has won a contract to supply high pressure piping to PowerGen's new gas fired power station at Kingsholm in Humber. This is in addition to the £35 million heat recovery generators it has already agreed to install in the plant.

### THE POUND

CHANGE ON WEEK
US dollar 1.9670 (+0.0135)
W German mark 2.9271 (-0.0018)
Exchange index 94.4 (+0.2)

### STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1582.6 (+11.9)
FT-SE 100 2040.6 (+9.9)
New York Dow Jones 2488.61 (-2.23)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 22931.80 (-1263.19)

### TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Rate
Australia S	2.80	2.85
Austria Sch	21.50	20.20
Belgium Fr	63.10	59.10
Canada C	2.28	2.28
Denmark Kr	11.70	11.00
France Fr	7.37	6.92
Germany DM	10.27	9.82
Italy Lit	3.055	2.955
Japan Yen	210.00	200.00
Netherlands Gld	25.10	24.00
Norway Kr	11.92	11.22
Portugal Esc	200.00	190.00
Spain Ptas	166.64	160.00
Sweden Kr	10.00	9.50
Switzerland Fr	2.665	2.465
Turkey Lira	1.800	1.700
USA \$	2.025	1.945
Yugoslavia Din	27.00	20.00

Notes for small denominations bank only as issued by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.  
Retail Price Index: 129.3 (September)

## Theme park disasters put Rainham back to the future

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN LOS ANGELES

THE prospect of a \$1.2 billion film studio theme park on 1,600 acres of Rainham marshes in Essex is fading fast. The plan has been hit by a fire at Universal Studios in Hollywood and by slumping theme park profits, even at Walt Disney, the market leader.

The Essex project, which would be among Europe's largest theme parks, planned to give a behind the scenes look at film making, featuring *ET*, *Jaws*, *King Kong*, and *Back to the Future*.

But the joint venture between the Rank Organisation and MCA, the Hollywood film maker, which owns Universal Studios and operates the oldest film studio tour, is being played down by some industry executives.

Since the project was proposed, MCA has become a possible takeover target of Matsushita, the Japanese electronics company. The offer could be worth a record \$8 billion, despite the fire at Universal last week, which destroyed a fifth of the 420-acre site including street scene back drops used in *The Sting*, *Back to the Future* and currently in *Oscar*, Sylvester Stallone's new film.

Insurance assessors say the damage could be more than \$25 million. Analysts believe the fire is unlikely to affect the Matsushita deal.

New developments, however, may now have a lower priority. Rank is known to be critical of the theme park management after the disastrous start of its first studio tour joint venture with MCA near

Orlando, Florida, in which Rank invested more than \$200 million.

Three of the main attractions failed to work on the day the \$630 million project opened. The *King Kong*, *Jaws* and *Earthquake* attractions failed to work properly for almost two months after the opening. Angry tourists were offered their money back or a free pass.

The original intention was for the two companies to work together on a European park in competition with Walt Disney. In Europe, MCA has the choice of the Rainham site and one near Disney's new theme park, which is 20 miles south of Paris and due to open within two years.

Despite the personal intervention of Margaret Thatcher and an estimated £150 million worth of concessions from the

British government, MCA has twice delayed making a final choice, which is now expected after Christmas.

Jeffrey Logsdon, an entertainment analyst with Seidler Amdec Securities, the Los Angeles broker, said at the weekend: "Certainly one has to have a cautious pause right now while they are in discussions with Matsushita. I think that with the fact that there are going to be quotas on production within the EC there are lots of reasons to be in Europe with a production facility. But realistically, if you are going to Europe, 20 miles outside Paris is where there will be an existing market. It would seem logical to try to capitalise on what's going to be in existence."

In Hollywood, there is also doubt over whether as the potential new owners of

MCA, Matsushita would want to expand the theme parks beyond America.

MCA shares collapsed three weeks ago amid speculation on Wall Street that Hollywood's biggest deal had hit snags. It prompted a formal announcement from Matsushita that talks were progressing.

The doubts came at a time when attendances at theme parks are waning as the American recession begins to bite and a Middle East war.

Operating income from Walt Disney's theme parks for the year to the end of September rose only 1 per cent on revenue up 7 per cent. Disney executives said the attendance at theme parks, which makes up almost two-thirds of its profits, had dropped in the important summer months.

## UK forced to ease way for private mines

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

EUROPEAN Commission pressure has forced the government to make significant concessions towards the introduction of fair competition in the coal industry.

In a letter to Britain's independent mine operators, John Temple Lang, a director of the European Commission's competition directorate, says the government has agreed to further liberalising measures ahead of the privatisation of British Coal. But it appears the government still has not gone far enough to satisfy the commission or the miners.

However, the government has apparently succeeded in deflecting EC pressure for immediate legislation required for wider reforms. *Private Coal* yesterday admitted involvement in the talks, chaired by a Department of Energy representative, between the independent miners and National Power and PowerGen, the two state-owned electricity companies. A spokesman said: "We can confirm that negotiations are underway on a package of measures which would include coal purchases, an appeals procedure, and the amount of royalties payable."

In an earlier letter, the competition directorate warned the government's official representative in Brussels it would intervene unless fair competition was allowed. It also alleged that British Coal

had abused its position to disadvantage its competitors.

The British representative was told of serious concerns at "the way in which it appears that British Coal has used its licensing powers (delays, putting the responsibility into the hands of a small office concerned also with British Coal's own opencast operations, obstructive interpretation of the 250,000 tonne limit for opencast mines)."

British Coal's contract to supply almost all coal required by the UK electricity generating industry, combined with a refusal to contract to buy new supplies from the independents, "will in due course reduce the outlets for the independent mines".

The latest letter, signed by Mr Lang, reveals that a new package offered to the miners includes a commitment by the government to appoint an independent expert for the private mines to appeal to if they are refused licences by British Coal. And it adds: "The United Kingdom Government has stated that in its opinion decisions of British Coal not to grant licences are subject to judicial review."

Britain's independent miners remain incensed that the government has not moved far enough. On Friday they are believed to have driven home their displeasure by ignoring the third "final" deadline to accept a deal on higher prices from the generating companies.

The confrontation was triggered by a complaint to the EC competition directorate by three trade federations of independent mines. British Coal owns almost all coal in the ground in Britain. Its United Kingdom competitors can operate only under licence from British Coal. Private opencast competitors have to pay British Coal a royalty fee of £7 a tonne which, they say, makes it harder to compete with British Coal and coal imports.

Overseas mines, they say, pay on average little more than £1 a tonne. In effect, they are required to cross-subsidise British Coal. The independents are paid less than two-thirds the price received by British Coal from the generators under their contract.

Hitherto, British Coal, which is developing opencast mines for deposits of more than 1 million tonnes in Scotland, has refused to licence competitors to mine deposits of more than 50,000 tonnes. The Coal Industry Act 1990 fixed the ceiling to 250,000 tonnes.

One senior source within a private coal mining company alleged: "British Coal has effectively used its licence system to control the flow of coal from the private sector." He estimated that private opencast operators, who have 67 mines, could lift output from 1.1 million tonnes a year to around 10 million tonnes a year, if the licensing and royalty system gave them "a level playing field" with British Coal.

## Barclays warns of 'deep recession'

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BARCLAYS, Britain's largest bank, has given warning that the country faces a deep and prolonged recession unless there are further interest rate cuts.

Alan Davies, the head of the bank's economics unit says in the November issue of Barclays' *Economic Review*, that the case for lower interest rates is "compelling" but that rate changes are now hampered by membership of the exchange-rate mechanism.

The pound's position in the ERM must be strengthened before the government risks another cut in base rates, Mr Davies adds.

If rates are decreased to 11 per cent, the bank says, the

recession will be short, and the economy will start to recover by next spring.

Meanwhile, Roger Grazebrook, Lloyds Bank's European Community adviser, says that the introduction of a hard ecu would increase transaction costs, and would confuse the market about the different types of ecu. In the bank's monthly *International Financial Outlook* newsletter, Mr Grazebrook says instead that the basket ecu offers a foundation for a single currency and is already a significant international financing tool.

Wholesale slump, page 26  
Economic View, page 27

## Shake-up likely as Brent deal agreed

By MICHAEL TATE, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

DETAILS of a boardroom shake-up at Brent Walker, the debt-laden leisure to betting group, are likely to emerge shortly following confirmation at the weekend that the group has reached agreement on a refinancing with about 50 banks.

Lord Kindersley, formerly deputy chairman at Lazard Brothers, the merchant bank, has already been approached by George Walker, the Brent Walker chairman, about becoming chairman.

The banks are also likely to have insisted that the board be augmented by other, powerful non-executive directors.

Under the terms of the refinancing agreement, completed on Saturday, Brent Walker, which has debts of £1.4 billion, has been granted a moratorium on capital repayments until the end of 1991.

Documentation has been promised by Friday, but may not be ready for Thursday's shareholder meeting, which will vote on the company's crucial £103 million convertible bond issue.

Critics of the issue are unhappy that these bonds convert into a controlling equity stake in the group. Mr Walker is taking £27.3 million through his private interests, while the remainder of the issue will be in the hands of just four places.

## Islanders rally round Polly Peck

FROM ANGELA MACKAY IN NORTHERN CYPRUS

RICHARD Stone, Polly Peck International's joint administrator, has left the Turkish republic of northern Cyprus confident that he has presented a case to the local authorities for the freeing of information about PPI. But he will have achieved little unless that confidence is backed up by the lifting of an injunction that is preventing access to the accounts of northern Cypriot subsidiaries.

This week, lawyers will apply for the injunction to be removed. If it is, the northern Cyprus government will have received assurances from Mr Stone that all of Polly Peck's businesses in the region will keep functioning without the loss of jobs.

Fortunately, the application comes when operations at Sunzest, the fruit packing and processing operation, are running at 25 per cent capacity because of seasonal factors.

Turkish Cypriots are generally loyal to Aziz Nadir, PPI's Turkish Cypriot-born chairman and the company's biggest shareholder. Even though attention over the past few days has been deflected from

Mr Nadir's problems by the anniversary of the death of President Ataturk and the start of the annual hunting season, PPI's plight is kept alive by the newspapers, many of which are owned by AN Graphics, Mr Nadir's company. Indeed, Mr Stone's presence was recorded in these and other newspapers accompanied by several unflattering photographs of him and his two colleagues.

On both Saturday and Sunday, *Kibris*, Mr Nadir's paper, pointed out that Mr Nadir was the only person who answered the local authority's call for investment in 1974, after the war with the south, and said that he had put much more into the economy than he had taken out.

However, if Mr Nadir had been withdrawing more profits from northern Cyprus over the past 15 years, he may not be in his present position.

"Most people will do just about anything short of finding money to help Polly Peck and this is why the government is employing these delaying tactics," the chairman of one of Cyprus's 13 banks said. "You must remember that apart from the government, Mr Nadir is the biggest employer in the republic."

## Electricity sparks off late rush

By OUR CITY STAFF



Shock treatment: John Wakeham caved in to pressure from City institutions

INVESTORS rushed to register for the electricity privatisation at the weekend, cheered by news that they would be protected against a stock market crash if war breaks out in the Gulf.

Investors who wish to buy into the country's 12 regional electricity companies must register by midnight on Wednesday if they want to qualify for the various incentives that are on offer to customers.

The Electricity Share Information Office's 400 telephone lines were extremely busy throughout Saturday and Sunday.

The office has now received 6½ million enquiries, although this includes some double-counting from multiple registrations.

The office expects to break the 7 million mark by Wednesday, the second highest of any privatisation issue, but estimates that enquiries will fall short of the record 7½ million people who registered for British Gas.

Although shares can be applied for later, those who miss the Wednesday deadline will not have the right to vouchers for their electricity bills, bonus shares or preferential allocations if there is heavy demand.

Registrations can be made to the Electricity Share Information Office on 0272 272272 or by post to PO Box 3, Bristol BS99 1SU. Given the vagaries of the post, potential investors are advised to telephone.

At the end of last week, retail investors learned that their chances of seeing a loss on their electricity shares if war breaks out in the Gulf had been reduced significantly.

John Wakeham, the energy secretary, caved in to pressure from City institutions and agreed that the institutions would be allowed to pull the issue if events in the Gulf deteriorated and the markets crashed.

## The facts on foreign currency mortgages.

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Foreign currency mortgages have attracted more than a little attention since ERM entry. But the debate has generated as much heat as light. Are the potential savings worth the risks? Should you think of them as a way to lower your repayments, or to cut your borrowings? Most important of all, who should - and who shouldn't - consider them?

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## Wholesale trade has slumped, says CBI

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

WHOLESALE trade in Britain has plummeted, pushing overall sales to their lowest figure on record. The trend is a further stark confirmation of the recessionary state of the British economy.

The latest CBI/FT distributive trades survey, published today, indicates clearly the still-depressed state of British retailing and distribution.

Forecasts in the survey suggest little prospect of improvement in the coming months.

Sales in October as measured by the survey were lower than a year ago. The balance of companies expecting sales to decline, as opposed to those expecting them to increase, stood at minus 14 per cent, which the CBI said was the lowest figure since the survey

began seven years ago. It marks a sharp fall from September, when the balance stood at 17 per cent. A decline in October was expected, but the balance was still forecast to be a positive 2 per cent. A balance of minus 12 per cent is now expected for November, below volumes for 1989.

Of the individual wholesaling sectors, only food and drink, and clothing, textiles and footwear indicated sales higher than in October 1989. Motor trading sales remained well down on those a year ago, with sales poor for the time of year.

Retailing itself saw continued annual sales growth at a slow steady pace, with a balance of 22 per cent reporting sales up on a year ago. Even so, sales were thought to be poor for the time of year.

days of 20 per cent or more average earnings rises for Britain's top bosses are gone for the present as the recession begins to bite into boardroom pay.

The survey suggests that the total pay increases for chief executives of large companies have been running at about 12 per cent over the past year. This compares with increases of 15 per cent in 1985-86, and 23 per cent in 1987-88.

Government ministers and employers' organisations, such as the CBI, which have been calling for lower pay settlements, have been dogged by accusations that company leaders have been awarding themselves big pay increases. But the six-monthly guide to boardroom pay by Hay, the management consultants, published today, says: "The

Nigel Whitaker, chairman of the CBI's distributive trades panel, said the survey results gave "clear evidence of how widespread the weakening in the economy has become." With distributors reporting further increases in stocks, and orders remaining down, "we are likely to see the effects of weak consumer demand continuing to dampen down economic activity."



Catering for executives: Lord Forte in the Crown Club wing of the Excelsior Hotel  
**Trusthouse executive flight**

THE Excelsior Hotel, which is owned by Trusthouse Forte, has become the largest hotel near Heathrow airport with the official opening of the Crown Club executive wing.

The extension, opened by Lord Forte, Trusthouse Forte's chairman, adds 248 new rooms and ten suites to the

hotel's 580 rooms. It cost an estimated £19 million to build, although it was completed ahead of schedule. The Excelsior Hotel also takes the Post House, also owned by Trusthouse Forte. The group now operates more than 1,600 rooms near the airport. The Excelsior was the

## Good news is no news as yields discount rate fall

The Treasury's autumn statement shows the economy is now, at best, in a shallow recession and this may well deepen before output stabilises. With business confidence still declining at an alarming rate, the risks to the Treasury's growth forecast are probably skewed on the downside.

There is a definite silver lining, however, in what is now happening to the economy. The recession is likely to prove deep enough to make a significant dent in the core rate of inflation.

The Treasury is again forecasting that retail price inflation will drop to 5.5 per cent within a year. This time, with profit margins being crushed and oil prices declining during 1991, it may well be proved right.

Experience suggests that Britain needs big shocks to push down inflation — and this is exactly what is happening. On previous evidence, the shock may be large enough to push inflation down to 4 per cent in 1992.

Inflation in Britain is therefore likely to fall more rapidly than at any time since the 1980-83 disinflationary period at the beginning of the Thatcher era. During this time, inflation fell from 22 to less than 4 per cent, base rates from 17 to 10 per cent, and 20-year gilt yields from 14 to 11.5 per cent.

But it is important to remember that the gilts bear market of the early Eighties did not end until about 18 months after the peak in inflation.

In fact, 20-year UK bond yields rose by a further 194 basis points between the peak in inflation in May 1980 and the final peak in gilt yields in October 1981. Hence, a fall in inflation, even a sharp one, does not guarantee lower gilt yields.

Indeed, the gilt market may be discounting a sizeable future improvement in inflation. An examination of continental bond markets shows that the real yields in other ERM member countries are clustered around 6-7 per cent.

On a comparable basis, therefore, the present nominal yield of about 11.6 per cent on ten-year gilts embodies an inflation expectation in Britain of 4.6-5.6 per cent.

Furthermore, the shape of the yield curve suggests sizeable cuts in short-term interest rates are built into market expectations. If ten-

year gilt yields were to stay unchanged at about 11.6 per cent, for example, short rates would need to fall to just under 11 per cent to bring the yield ratio — the ratio of three-month interest rates to ten-year gilt yields — back to the average seen during previous downturns.

For the ratio to return to "normal" for a cyclical trough, base rates need to fall to 10 per cent. Hence, we certainly need to see base rates fall substantially from here even to justify present nominal gilt yields, never mind drive yields lower.

Under normal circumstances, therefore, with both inflation and base rates likely to fall sharply, British gilt yields could be expected to trade around a rather stable trend over the next 18 months.

Unfortunately, circumstances are unlikely to be normal. Internationally, a war in the Gulf looks more likely and a renewed sharp rise in the oil price would pose a significant risk to all global bond markets in the short term.

The next 12 months are likely to be a period of increasing political uncertainty in Britain.

Whether or not a challenge to Mrs Thatcher emerges, a significant recovery in opinion poll support for the government continues to look doubtful.

A growing focus on the imminence of the next general election and the uncertainty of its result is likely to cause investors increasingly to demand a risk premium on British assets.

In conclusion, the 1980-83 experience shows that there can be a very long lag between the onset of recession, the subsequent decline in inflation, and the eventual drop in gilt yields. The same could happen this time.

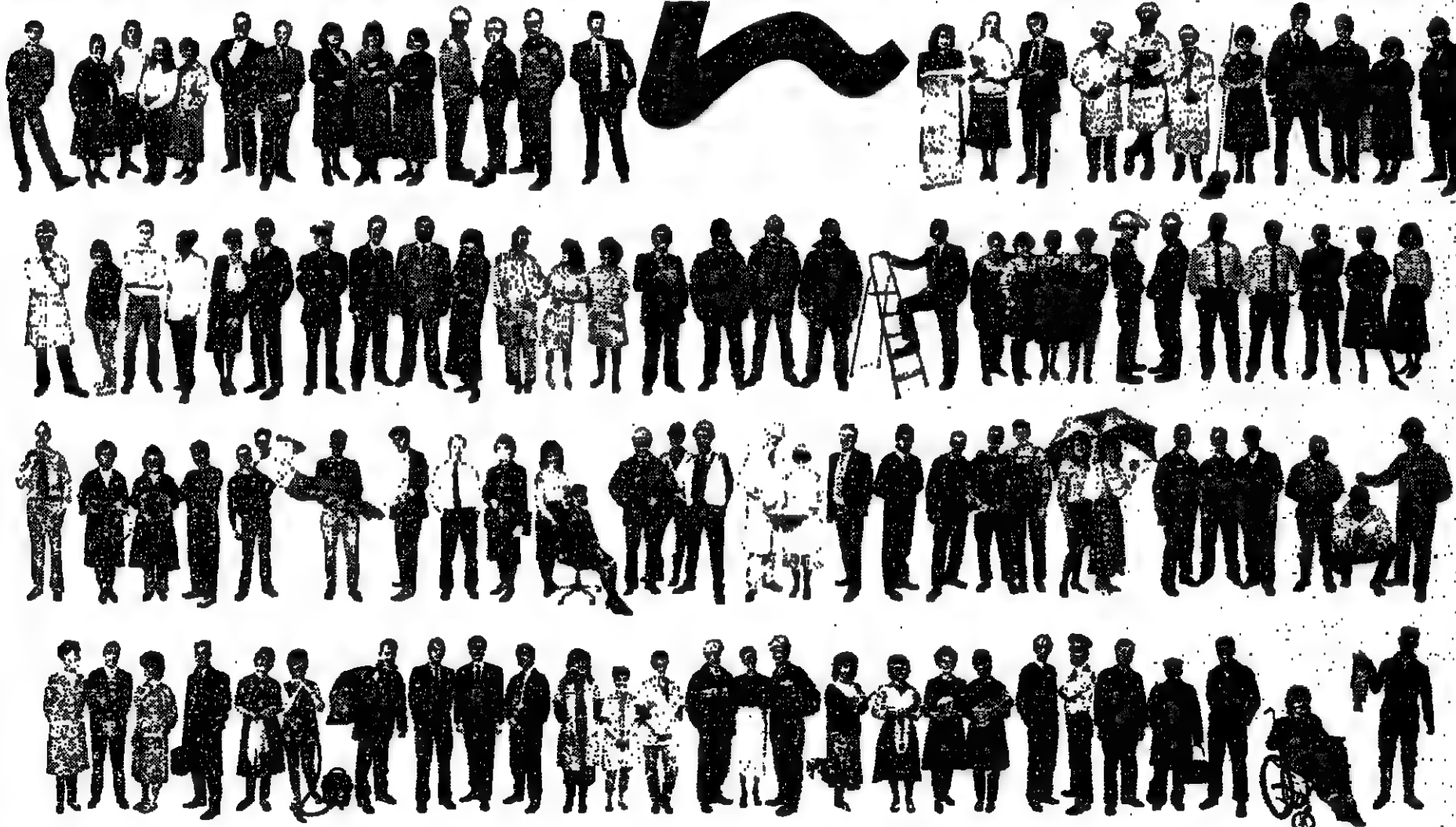
Nominal gilt yields in Britain, then, discount much of the good news about the likely future fall in inflation and base rates.

The threat of a change of government, and expectations that sterling may subsequently be devalued within the ERM — and the certainty that the government will return to being a big issuer of gilts next year — all suggest that gilt yields are unlikely to fall from their present levels on a one-year view.

DAVID WALTON  
Goldman Sachs  
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# TEES/SIDE

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# TEES/SIDE

## Initiative Talent Ability

## Santander, RBS plan Euro link

By NEIL BENNETT  
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Royal Bank of Scotland is planning an electronic banking network across Europe with Banco Santander, its Spanish partner.

The system is intended to cure the lengthening delays in international money transfers, and outflank the European Community's proposals for a central European clearing house.

The Royal Bank is thought to be close to announcing the electronic link with Banco Santander. The system will allow both banks' customers to transfer funds between Britain and Spain on the same day, as well as set up standing orders and direct debits overseas and obtain statements.

The two banks are believed to be negotiating with French and German banks to extend the network. Banco de Comercio e Industria, the Portuguese bank controlled by the Royal Bank and Santander, is also expected to join the system.

## Rapid sale of German firms urged

By COLIN NARBROUGH  
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

DEUTSCHE Bank, cornerstone of the German financial-industrial fraternity, has come down squarely in favour of the rapid privatisation of east German companies in preference to efforts to restructure the largely ailing state firms.

The bank's position was made clear last Friday, only days after Bonn announced that it had persuaded Detlev Rohwedder, chief executive of Trendelenburg, the agency responsible for privatising some 8,000 east German companies, to stay on, in spite of allegations that he is proving reluctant to sell off companies.

Herr Rohwedder has vigorously rejected calls for rushed privatisation across the board. But Hilmar Kopper, Deutsche Bank's chief executive, told a banking conference in Frankfurt that privatisation and the sale of firms to western partners had to take priority.

## Japan 'switching from sake to beer'

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BEER is on course to oust sake as the national drink of Japan, according to a study of global beer markets by Euromonitor, the research group. Fast-growing consumption of beer in Japan and China hold out the prospect of rich pickings for Western brewers seeking respite from stagnant or declining home markets, it concludes.

Beer consumption in Japan has doubled in the past 20 years. The Japanese drink 28 per cent more beer than they did five years ago, while the Chinese drink 87 per cent more. Britons, by contrast, drink only 3 per cent more than they did five years ago and Americans only 2 per cent more. Inhabitants of the former German Federal Republic, who consume more beer

per head than any other nation, now drink 1 per cent less. But the difference of distribution channels in the Far East could present problems. In Britain, three pints out of four sold are draught beer. In Japan, beer is often served by a machine. The country has 2.5 million beer vending machines, which account for four out of every ten cans sold.

In China the hazards are even more complex. Euromonitor says a better political climate, less variable beer quality, and a more effective distribution network may be needed before joint ventures become very attractive for Western brewers. Even so, "American light beers and premium British brands will play a key role in the spiralling consumption rates," it says.



Karl Otto Pöhl, president of the Bundesbank, spent much of last week publicly ridiculing the British plan for a new Eurocurrency, the "hard ecu". But the rejection of the hard ecu was the least of the disappointments Herr Pöhl brought to 11 Downing Street. Far worse was his deep disdain for the whole idea of an Anglo-German monetary alliance against the federalist ambitions of Italy and France. Judging by his comments, it is with Italy, not Germany, that Mrs Thatcher may have to make common cause.

Like the Treasury, the Bundesbank was unhappy about the commitment to a new European central bank made by the Rome summit. But the two institutions' reasons for this anxiety seemed to be diametrically opposed.

Herr Pöhl has nothing against monetary union provided it is built around a totally independent European central bank and increasingly powerful centralised European fiscal policy. What the Bundesbank objects to is the "symbolic" or psychological approach to Emu favoured by the Italians. This relies on the

Bundesbank lending its credibility to countries with high inflation, in the hope that the Teutonic discipline will spread automatically to their economies, without the need for governments to confront entrenched inflation head-on. It is rather like cleaning up a red light district by putting all the girls in Salvation Army uniforms — it might not restore morality but it would certainly damage the Salvation Army reputation.

Consider now the British view of Emu. Britain has joined Italy as the leading exponent of the symbolic linkage with German monetary policy. But to add insult to injury, Britain is implacably opposed to ceding any real power to European institutions. In other words, Britain is now the kind of free rider on German monetary discipline the Bundesbank objects to. That Britain could join Germany in a hard-money alliance against French and Italian federalists must be laughable to the Bundesbank.

## An Anglo-Italian monetary alliance

### ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY

Far from opposing federalism, the Bundesbank seems to favour accelerated moves to unification among those European countries that are ready for the full rigours of irrevocably fixed exchange rates with Germany. The central bank proposed by the Rome summit should be created only if a group of European countries were ready to transfer the entire responsibility for monetary policy to a community institution, Herr Pöhl said, adding that Germany would be willing to do this if the terms were right. Other countries would obviously not be ready for many years.

In the past, comments like these have spread joy among the Europhobes in Britain, since they appeared to imply a Bundesbank

block to Emu in the foreseeable future. But Herr Pöhl actually seems to believe that economic conditions have converged sufficiently in the core group of EMS countries to make fixed exchange rates and pooled monetary policy a realistic possibility. Agreement on irrevocably fixed exchange rates between Germany, France, and a group of smaller northern European countries was now "the most likely and most realistic scenario", he said. The main institutional objection to making such a move tomorrow appears to be lack of political independence of the Bank of France.

It is another example of the economic solipsism of British policymakers that they consider the Bank of England to be the

main object of the Bundesbank's demands for the independence of all European central banks. In fact, it is at France that most speeches seem addressed. Consider now what might happen if France agreed to grant its central bank constitutional independence. A rapid move to a de facto monetary union would become quite possible, even without amendments to the Treaty of Rome. But Britain, Italy and Spain would have to be excluded. An "irrevocable" exchange rate commitment from them would only undermine the credibility of the word irrevocable.

The two-step approach to Emu would be extremely attractive to all the low-inflation European countries. For Britain and Italy, however, exclusion from the inner core would be a political disaster. As long as they depend on the borrowed credibility of the Bundesbank to sustain confidence in their currencies and economic policies, Italy and Brit-

ain have an overwhelming interest in preventing or delaying the monetary integration for which the non-inflationary countries of Europe are almost ready.

Italy has become a past master at delaying economic integration which it would find politically unmanageable or socially uncomfortable, by diverting attention to political symbolism. Britain has always preferred crude obstruction. This is a far more dangerous and uncertain course. For if Britain blocks a clear-cut constitutional commitment to Emu involving all 12 EC countries, there is a chance that Germany, France and the other core countries will go ahead with a much more rapid tightening of monetary bonds outside the Treaty of Rome. The Italian proposals for full-scale constitutional and economic integration probably offer the best hope for holding up the unification train long enough to allow weaker passengers to hobble aboard.

It may be a disappointing admission, but Mrs Thatcher must face the facts: Italy, not Germany, is Britain's economic peer, and natural ally, in Europe.

THE bears have been having a picnic with Rolls-Royce lately. Since July, when the shares reached 232p, the slide has been under them and the fall has gathered pace since the end of October. But at 150p, down 35 per cent from the midsummer peak, they look heavily oversold for anyone with the patience to take a longer-term view of a company that is still a by-word for engineering and technological excellence.

The bear case, and it is a gloomy one, runs something like this. The defence operations are threatened by the political pressures to claim the so-called peace dividend through lower state spending. The civil aircraft side is being hit by a looming recession in the airline business, and the weaker dollar makes GE and Pratt & Whitney, the two American aero-engine makers, more competitive. Indeed American analysts have already downgraded shares of their domestic engine makers on the grounds that the all-important civil spares market is slowing. Fine, but the bearish view does not stand up well to close scrutiny.

If last week's autumn statement is taken at face value, the peace dividend will be some time coming. The military budget falls no more than 6 per cent in real terms up to fiscal 1993-4. In cash terms it rises from £21.6 billion this year to £23.4 billion. This is hardly draconian, and in the short run the costs of the Gulf conflict will be the subject of a supplementary estimate.

In the Gulf, Rolls will be called upon heavily for spares, the more profitable part of aero-engine manufacture. About 700 of the company's engines are already deployed. And market sources say that the MoD ordered six times its normal August spares offtake on an emergency basis at what can only be assumed are appropriate margins.

American analysts who visited Rolls ten days ago gained the clear impression that the company is highly confident of further sales to Saudi Arabia of Hawks and Tornados.

The defence side, half

## Take Rolls out of the bears' picnic basket

TEMPUS



Confident: Lord Tombs of Brilles, Rolls chairman

Rolls's business, still looks solid. Many industrial managers grappling with sharply falling profits would give their eye teeth for such stable income.

As GPA, the aircraft leasing firm, stressed last week, there are signs of recession in the airline business. Rolls told its American visitors that there has been a slowdown in orders for civil engine spares as airlines trimmed spending to meet reduced income budgets.

The pain may be less severe than expected though. There is a limit to this destocking of spares, for airlines normally carry restricted supplies for sound cost control reasons. The order flow must eventually resume as parts are drawn from stock. Throughout the past 20 years, the number of hours flown by leading airlines has increased year by year even throughout recessionary times. Rolls is still confident of

taking its share of the world civil engine market to 30 per cent (it was 5 per cent in 1984) and American analysts were told that despite the steeply higher oil price not a single engine order has been cancelled. As for currency, Rolls hedges forward all its new engine sales and on civil spares is hedged through much of next year.

The overbearing point, however, is that these factors have been submitted in the bank City forecasts which indicate that Rolls will make about £280 million this year and £310 million next. This puts the shares on a 6.6 p/e ratio, falling to just 6 for next year. Underpinned by a £7 billion order book and with a 6.7 per cent prospective yield, the shares are as sound as their name.

### Willis Corroon

THE past two years have been so short of good news for Britain's insurance brokers that a chance ray of sunshine at Willis Corroon comes as a welcome relief.

Willis's share price has been recovering from its disastrous low of 191p, reached as shareholders agreed the £1.1 billion merger between Willis Faber and Corroon & Black in the US. The shares closed on Friday at 236p.

But this is still a long way from the 291p before the Corroon deal, and seems driven by index-watchers rather than fundamentals. Analysts and investors alike remain sceptical of the benefits of the merger, which severed the relationship with Johnson & Higgins, a larger US broker.

With a capitalisation of more than £900 million, Willis looks almost certain to join the FT-SE 100 index at the earliest opportunity. The company qualifies for automatic inclusion as one of the top 90 companies, so it will become the only insurance broking candidate for the growing number of tracker funds.

The merged group should make pre-tax profits of £140 million in 1991, giving a p/e ratio of 11. Given the pall overhanging the whole financial sector, Willis's re-rating may be nearly complete.

## Poll finds support for the ecu

### EC NOTEBOOK

MOST people in European Community countries except Britain and Denmark are willing to see their national currencies disappear in favour of the European currency, unit (ecu), according to an opinion poll. Even in Britain, 37 per cent would wave goodbye to the pound in five or six years, and few quote "national sovereignty" as the main reason for keeping it.

The drachma is the least popular currency, with 80 per cent of Greeks prepared to see it go. In Belgium 76 per cent, Spain 75 per cent, France 73 per cent, Italy 66 per cent and Holland 56 per cent gave favourable responses to a single European currency, while in Germany 51 per cent agreed.

Most of the 6,000 polled a month ago by Gallup, for the Association for Monetary Union in Europe, put cheaper travel lower in priority than monetary stability and smoother cross-border trade. The idea of creating a European central bank is supported by 58 per cent of Britons and

more than three-quarters of the population in other community countries.

THE GULF dispute has claimed casualties in the form of a drop in confidence among European businesses and consumers. Britain's economy was suffering before the August invasion of Kuwait, but more buoyant business performance in France, Italy, the Netherlands and Belgium has since slackened too.

A European Commission report, *European Economy - Business and Consumer Survey Results*, records a 1.7 per cent drop in the EC's main economic indicator. But it does not forecast long-term gloom, as western Germany is still booming and there is, as yet, no Seventies-style threat to oil supplies.

THE commission has allowed Volvo and Renault to swap shares and create the biggest bus and heavy lorry manufacturer in Europe. Taking his first decision under fresh EC powers over mergers,

Sir Leon Brittan, the commissioner, considered the venture a justifiable pooling of resources in a shrinking market rather than an awesome monopoly-in-the-making.

Each partner will take a 45 per cent stake in the other's truck and bus operations. They will also absorb up to a quarter of each other's car and van manufacturing.

IN AN effort to bolster flagging enthusiasm for investment in East Europe, Brussels is asking for a common "reinsurance pool" to cushion Western companies more effectively in case their large-scale contracts in the East fall through. Export credit agencies from each EC country would pool 40 per cent of the risks involved in credit insurance contracts lasting over two years.

THE designs of Japanese, American, and other micro-chips sold to the community are to enjoy the same copyright protection as competing European products. The EC has decreed. Brussels is sat-

isfied that European semiconductor topographies will receive reciprocal treatment when exported.

The measures will be reviewed in two years for American and Swiss topographies, while those from Japan, Sweden, Australia and Austria win unlimited protection. Brussels confirmed last week the decision shows a firm intention to use the approaching single market as a lever to win concessions out of the EC's trading partners.

A MOVE to curbed tape for small- and medium-sized companies in Europe after 1993 has been watered down. The object is to make accounts more transparent and to reduce bureaucratic burdens, said a spokesman but governments will not be obliged to give small firms all these benefits. The rules turn down financial reporting requirements and will allow annual accounts in ecus.

PETER GUILFORD  
Brussels

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Continental connections

IAN Norrington, head of European equity sales at Kleinwort Benson until he was asked to resign in April, an event he no longer regrets, has wasted little time putting his former experience in the City to good use. For he has been appointed European consultant to the Fiduciary Trust Company, the New York securities house, which has ambitious plans for the Continent. Norrington, who worked for De Beers for 20 years and went on to set up W1 Carr's mining department in 1971, now divides his time between Fiduciary's UK offices in the West End and his own thriving jewellery business in Jermyn Street. "Friends in the City used to ask my advice on jewellery," says Norrington, aged 54, who joined the European department of Greaveson Grant in 1982. Meanwhile, past colleagues on KB's European sales desk, now run by Laurie Falkener, are keeping a wary eye on their list of clients. For Norrington was introduced to Fiduciary in Geneva, after KB agreed to let him visit his old trading contacts, and many of them may be only too happy to lend a helping hand.

### Follow the bear

THE City is still prepared to dig deep for the right cause. There was no shortage of money when 700 swags brokers and guests gathered at the InterContinental Hotel in London for the second Off-

Balance Ball. Star of the evening was a 6ft 6in peg-legged teddy bear, dressed as a pirate, and won in a raffle by Emma Brewster, who works on the US treasury desk at BZW, and her boyfriend, Cameron McNeill, former head of swaps trading at the same firm. They offered the bear up for auction, with Nick Burge, of Nomura Securities, forking out £2,000 — bringing the total raised for Bliss, a charity to help premature babies, to more than £30,000. "We are not total bears," Burge admits. But as joint head of swaps trading, with Ayesha Shah, he has installed the bear on Nomura's dealing floor.

### Pot-pourri

THE recently conferred right of about 20,000 Soviet manufacturing enterprises to negotiate their own foreign deals is throwing up unlikely partnerships. The 630-year-old Gzhel

Pottery from the town of the same name about 35 miles from Moscow sent a high-powered team of four executives last week to the even more remote Belleek Pottery in the wilds of County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland.

They signed a joint marketing and manufacturing agreement under which Belleek will market Gzhel produce through its worldwide distribution network. The Irish company already sells its hand-painted china in the Soviet Union in the hard currency duty-free shops which are a subsidiary of Aer Rianta, the Irish airport authority, operates at Moscow's two main airports, Victor Lignov, Gzhel's managing director, says it is the company's first Western venture.

"The Gzhel range will appeal to people as quality gifts are since every piece, like Belleek's, is hand-painted and produced by our own craftsmen."

OVERHEARD in a West Country supermarket: "The only good thing about inflation is that you go into a supermarket with £20 and come out faster than you did a year ago."

Chinese checkers

EVENTS in Tiananmen Square may have encouraged the Chinese leadership to retreat into their shells on economic policy, but not everything has gone into reverse, according to Joseph Duncan, former chief statistician to the American government, and now corporate economist at Dun & Brad-

street, Duncan, who stopped over in London after attending an International Association of Official Statisticians conference in Beijing, says that China's state statistical office is still doing its best to bring national accounts into line with Western systems.

Two young Chinese statisticians informed the conference that their department had spent no less than a million man-hours to produce the modernized data up until 1987. Not bad, considering the equivalent data in America runs only until 1982.

### Where there's a will

SIMON Watson, the City financier who helped set up the corporate finance department at Lloyds Bank before turning his eye to new ventures, is back on a winning streak. He has been appointed chairman of Quill Willis, a home win writing company. It is all far removed from his previous role as managing director of Yelverton Investments, the USM-listed investment company, which was once tipped as a comeback vehicle for Jim Slater, the one-time financier and latter-day author of children's books. "He was very entertaining," says Watson, an old Harrovian, who began his career with the Bank of London and South America, later part of Lloyds Bank International and co-founded the corporate finance department at Lloyds in 1978. "Once you've been in merchant banking, you can turn your hand to all different kinds of things," he adds.

JON ASHWORTH



"I heard they were asking for war protection."



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